

Cuba in plot to seize power in El Salvador, US claims

Communist countries have agreed to supply the Salvadoran rebels with lavish military aid funnelled through Cuba, the United States med yesterday. The EEC is to go ahead with humanitarian aid to El Salvador despite concern in Washington that it might help the guerrillas trying to overthrow their Government.

EEC goes ahead with emergency relief

Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 20
The United States claims it has documentary proof that the communist powers are trying to overthrow the Government of El Salvador.
A memorandum published in the New York Times today, dated February 19, says that the past year the guerrillas in El Salvador have been "essentially transformed into a case of indirect aggression by Communist power through Cuba".
The documents to support the claim will be published next week. In the meantime, leaders of NATO countries friendly to South American countries have been shown a copy of the memorandum, and Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, who has been designated Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, is touring Western Hemisphere to present the American position on El Salvador.
The department today confirmed the authenticity of the memorandum published by the New York Times. The documents, it says, are "very significant and recent evidence, which has helped us to reconstruct the role played by the Communist countries and several states in the political, military and economic support of the insurgent forces in El Salvador."
The newspaper does not publish any of the documents, but it says the memorandum (which presumably has been given to the EEC) contains "a detailed account of the role played by the Communist countries and several states in the political, military and economic support of the insurgent forces in El Salvador."
The documents are alleged to show that the Soviet Union, or else an American captured in Vietnam, they slipped first to Cuba, which in turn passed them on to the whole operation and are then sent directly to El Salvador or passed to Nicaragua.
The newspaper says that today the American position is that weapons had been sent from Vietnam to El Salvador for "all-intentioned, fabrication" (Agence

Consuls are kidnapped by Basque terrorists

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 20

Basque terrorists today kidnapped the honorary consuls of Austria, El Salvador and Uruguay in simultaneous operations apparently aimed at securing the release from prison of suspected Basque terrorists.

The Centre Democratic Union, party of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister-designate, condemned the kidnappings as a "real attempt to coerce the Spanish state and bring about a deterioration of the democratic process".

The sister-in-law of Señor Gabriel Borrián, Uruguay's honorary consul seized from his home in Pamplona, said that one of the three armed men had indicated they belonged to ETA, the Basque separatist organization. The terrorists had said they were not demanding any ransom.

Another relative of the kidnapped consul said that the men had explained they were going to kidnap various consuls "as they hoped that would become international news".

Two more kidnappings had failed, ETA said tonight in a statement to a Basque radio station. The organization had tried to "arrest" the honorary Portuguese and West German consuls in San Sebastián. It also demanded the release of 300 Basque prisoners, the closure of an American-supplied nuclear plant and full home rule for Spain's regions.

Sources in the family of Señor Borrián said the kidnappers told him to pack his suitcase for a long time but that nothing would happen to him.

Police said the kidnappers in Pamplona took away the Uruguayan consul in his own car. Others in the group stayed with his relatives for four hours.

Family sources quoted the kidnappers as saying that nothing would be heard of the consul for at least 15 days. —UPI and Reuters.

Dr Antonio Amparo Fernández, the honorary consul of El Salvador, was taken away at the same time as his Uruguayan colleague, but the kidnappers stayed for more than ten hours. They left only after receiving a telephone call at 8.30 a.m.
The kidnapping of Herr Hermann Diez de la Sel Korsakow, the honorary Austrian consul, was carried out at about the same time as the others and the kidnappers stayed through the night with the consul's wife and family.

The Spanish Government, while condemning the violation of human rights and international law, promised it would spare no efforts to achieve the consul's release.
Señor Juan Rosón, the outgoing Interior Minister in Madrid, thought that one motive for the kidnappings might be as a protest against Señor Calvo Sotelo's clearly expressed view that Spain should join NATO. The minister identified the kidnappers as the work of the "pol-mil", the extreme left of the ETA politico-military wing.



Shuttle tested: The trouble-plagued space shuttle fires all three of its engines simultaneously for the first time at Cape Canaveral after a last-minute problem delayed the test for an hour. The success of yesterday's 20-second test has raised hopes that the shuttle's first flight will take place

as scheduled on April 7, three years after the target date. Eight steel bolts, each 3ft long, were all that prevented the craft from taking off when its engines, which develop 1,100,000 lb of thrust, ignited. When the shuttle is launched the bolts will be severed by explosive charges. Report, page 4

1,900 jobs are lost in Courtaulds closures

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Courtaulds is withdrawing from nylon yarn production in Britain. The decision will involve the closure of plants in Liverpool and Northern Ireland with the loss of more than 1,900 jobs.

The announcement coincided with a further job shedding in the textile chemicals industries which brought the total of redundancies declared yesterday to more than 2,500.

Laporte Industries, the chemical group, is to cut 500 jobs in south Humbershire and a subsidiary of Carrington Viella is to make nearly 200 textile workers redundant in the West of England (Business News, page 15).

In another move, Dewhurst and Farmer decided to close down the operations of its wholly-owned subsidiary — Dupar Pelapone which has a factory at Derby — with the loss of about 55 jobs.

Significantly both Courtaulds and Laporte cited the strength of sterling and the rise in energy costs as main factors.

The Courtaulds decision to withdraw from the production of nylon filament yarn, its nylon filament yarn, will close factories at Antrim, Liverpool, and at Carrington in Northern Ireland and will mean some staff losses at plants in the Midlands. It provides a dramatic illustration of the depth of the recession in the textile industry, which has been compounded by a sharp fall in capacity in synthetic fibre production throughout Western Europe.

Courtaulds job losses will total 1,903 and will lift the total of job cuts made by the company over the past 18 months to over 22,000. Courtaulds accounts for about 6 per cent of total West European production of nylon, and in the United Kingdom the company is the second largest producer, after ICI, with a total production capacity of 25,000 tonnes.

Over the past six months, in common with the rest of the synthetic fibres industry, Courtaulds has been forced to implement extensive short-time working and has worked at about 65 per cent capacity.

Under the Courtaulds plan, 1,550 workers employed at Antrim will lose their jobs; 306 at Carrickfergus adding to the huge unemployment problem in the province; and 47 other employees based at plants in Coventry and Spondon, Derbyshire, will be among the casualties.

In a statement, the company said that the United Kingdom market for nylon textile yarn had declined consistently since peak demand in 1973, and the downturn has since accelerated sharply, with demand in the final quarter of last year only 65 per cent of the corresponding period of 1979.

The European market, it said, had been similarly affected, and exports to Europe, the principal market for Courtaulds, fell in the second half of last year to little more than half the level of the first six months.

The company said that since January 1980 sterling had appreciated by about 27 per cent against the main European currencies. This had "destroyed" the company's competitive position on which it relied for about 35 per cent of its sales.

"The decline in demand for nylon coupled with the strength of sterling has put immense downward pressure on prices at a time when costs, in particular energy costs, have been rising. The combination of these factors has meant that a substantial loss will be made in the current year."

Overall losses on the Courtaulds operation in this financial year are estimated at about £3m. Courtaulds said that, with substantial European over capacity and low levels of demand likely to persist, it was not able to support past and continuing losses.

Militant miners call off unofficial strikes

From Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The militant miners' challenge to government policy on the coal industry collapsed yesterday after left-wing area union leaders agreed among themselves to call off their unofficial strikes.

After a series of secret telephone calls between the coalfields, it was decided that the men in Yorkshire should not come out, while Scots and Welsh miners should return to work in line with the recommendation of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive.

The miners' executive explained the similar decisions of area councils in the three militant coalfields not to go ahead with an all-out stoppage from Monday in pursuit of even greater concessions for the industry.

The trigger for a general return to work came in South Wales, and it was communicated privately to Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scots miners, and Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire area of the NUM, who was due to ask local delegates to organize a strike in accordance with an already agreed timetable.

Continued on page 2, col 3

Ir Sutcliffe for trial in Leeds

Arthur Osman

During a 10-minute hearing at Leeds Crown Court, William Sutcliffe, aged 34, was committed in custody to the prison at Leeds for trial on charges of the murder of 13 women and the attempted murder of seven others in West Yorkshire between 1975 and 1977.

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the clerk to the magistrates, reading the full list of charges for the first time.

They alleged that Mr Sutcliffe murdered Jacqueline Hill at Leeds between November 16 and 19 last year; attempted to murder Anna Patricia Ruskusky, at Keighley on May 12, 1975; attempted to murder Olive Smith at Halifax on or about August 15, 1975; murdered Wilma McCann at Leeds on October 30, 1975; murdered Emily Monica Jackson at Leeds on or about January 20, 1976; attempted to murder Marcella Claxton at Leeds on May 9, 1976; murdered Elaine Richardson at Leeds on or about February 6, 1977; murdered Patricia Atkinson at Bradford on or about April 23, 1977; murdered Jayne Michelle McDonald at Leeds on June 26, 1977; attempted to murder Maureen Long at Bradford on July 10, 1977; murdered Jean Bernadette Jordan at Manchester between September 30 and October 11, 1977; attempted to murder

Marlyn Moore at Leeds on December 14, 1977; murdered Yvonne Ann Pearson at Bradford between January 20 and March 26, 1978; murdered Helen Maria Ryka at Huddersfield between January 30 and February 4, 1978; murdered Vera Evelyn Millward at Manchester on or about May 16, 1978; murdered Josephine Ann Whitaker at Halifax on or about April 4, 1979; murdered Barbara Janine Leach at Bradford between September 1 and 4, 1979; murdered Margarette Walls at Farsley, Leeds, on or about August 20, 1980; attempted to murder Ursula Sandhu at Bradford on or about September 24, 1980; and attempted to murder Teresa Simone Sykes at Huddersfield on November 5.

Mr David Kyle, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, asked that a further charge which alleged that Mr Sutcliffe stole two vehicle registration plates, worth 50p should be withdrawn.

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Proposals for rugby changes rejected

A plan for the restructuring of English rugby, proposed by the Burgess committee, has been rejected by the full committee of the Rugby Football Union.

However, there is a good prospect of a club league system being introduced by the season 1983-84. Page 5

Joint steel venture

The British Steel Corporation and GKN are taking an equal stake in a new steel-making company that will employ about 5,000 workers. The venture meets the Government's wish to rationalise areas of overlap between the public and private steel sectors. Page 15

Curate jailed for rape

A curate who raped and terrorized women and young girls has been jailed for 12 years. The Rev Nicolaus Stavrakis, who was described by his counsel as a 'Jekyll and Hyde' character, committed the offences over two years between Cardiff and Carmarthen, where he lived. Page 3

Snub for M Giscard

President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan, arriving in Moscow for the Soviet Communist Party Congress, categorically rejected President Giscard d'Estaing's recent proposal for an international conference on his country and declared his Government was absolutely legitimate. Page 4

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Glasgow goes on the march

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

Hundreds of extra police are being drafted into the centre of Glasgow today to control crowds at one football match and three marches in the city.

Celtic meet their old rivals, Rangers, in the first serious test of the law banning drink from football grounds. Mr Michael Foot leads a "right to work" march by more than 20,000, while Scottish "loyalists" stride out "to keep Ulster British", and, in another part of the city, a faction of the National Front also demonstrates in favour of keeping Ulster British.

In a march last weekend supporting the removal of the Army from Northern Ireland, 152 people were arrested.

Mr Foot, who arrived in Glasgow yesterday, said that the "right to work" demonstration would be an historic one, but the protests have taxed the resources of Mr Patrick Hamill, Chief Constable of Strathclyde, who used his powers under the Public Order Act, 1936, to direct the two Northern Ireland marches away from Celtic Park, where a crowd of 60,000 is expected.

Mr Hamill has been under pressure to ban the pro-Ulster marches, but could hardly have stopped them and at the same time allowed the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, led by Mr Foot and Scotland's socialist hierarchy, to parade from Blythswood Square to Queen's Park.

£4m fire claims

Malicious damage claims totalling £4,030,000 (Irish) have been lodged with Dublin Corporation after the fire at the Stardust discotheque that claimed 46 lives last week. They have been filed by three companies in respect of the building, contents, and fittings and by the proprietor for lost equipment.

Michael Schembry is incurable



"It's a bit of a bind," he says.

Michael Schembry used to lead a very full life. He worked hard, loved walking and running, music and travel. Then he contracted multiple sclerosis — and came to us.

We have over 270 severely disabled and incurable patients to care for. We cannot cure them. But we can help them. Skilled care has helped Michael learn to live with his illness. "It's a bit of a bind," he says. "But I knew I had to come to terms with it."

We, too, need help. We are not part of the Health Service and we rely a lot on the generosity of the compassionate. Please help us with a donation, a deed of covenant or a bequest.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL & HOME FOR INCURABLES (Putney and Brighton). Dept. 72 West Hill, Putney, London, SW15 3SW. Patrons: HM The Queen and HM The Queen Mother. Director of Appeals and Publicity: Air Commodore D. E. Rixson, OBE, DFC, AFC.

HOME NEWS

Crisis in public sector worsens with Civil Service strike threat

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The crisis of unrest facing the Government in the public sector deepened yesterday when unions in the water and sewerage industry and the Civil Service said they were ready to strike if pay offers were not improved.

Meetings held around the country by the two main unions representing the 32,000 water workers have returned large majorities in favour of rejecting the employers' "final" 10 per cent offer, and many have voted in favour of starting the industry's first national strike.

The Council of Civil Service Unions, the umbrella organization for nine unions representing 530,000 white-collar workers, said last night that if the Government's 6 per cent offer was not improved they would start a campaign of industrial action with a one-day national strike on March 5.

Leaders of the unions will on Monday meet Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, who is responsible for day to day administration of the Civil Service, and expect an improved offer in the region of 7 to 7½ per cent.

Mr William Kendall, secretary general of the council, said last night that if no improvement was forthcoming a one-day strike on Thursday would be agreed to launch the campaign. It will be aimed mainly at government computer centres, and could have a serious effect on the public sector borrowing requirement and the money supply.

Civil Service unions are holding ballots or branch voting meetings to gauge members' views on taking industrial

action, and union leaders report good support. Voting in the largest union, the Civil and Public Services Association, is running at about three to one in favour of action, although not many members have voted so far.

In the water industry, all regional conferences held by the Dominant General and Municipal Workers' Union, which represents 20,000 workers in the industry, had voted for rejection by last night. Delegates at nearly all of the conferences indicated their determination to take industrial action.

A similar picture emerged from the conferences held by the National Union of Public Employees, which has 10,000 members in the industry, although the Midlands conference voted for acceptance. It is being argued by union officials that that was because most of the 1,500 workers in the region work for the Severn-Trent Water Authority, which pays high bonuses.

Negotiators are due to meet on Wednesday and will be under strong pressure to call for strike action, if there is no improvement in the 10 per cent offer. Some workers want the strike to start on Thursday, but it is likely that the unions will give notice of a strike to leave time for the employers to change their stance.

The threat of a national strike is worrying ministers, and contingency plans involving the use of troops to keep essential services going have been drawn up.

National Health Service negotiators yesterday made clear to leaders of 250,000 hospital ancillary workers that they would be bound by the 6 per cent cash limit.

About-turn for water workers discounted

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The Government's determination to stand firm on pay despite the threatened strike by water workers was being expressed by Mr. Thatcher yesterday in the aftermath of the about-turn on pit closures.

Although there is private recognition that the Government was slow in seeing the explosive mood in the coal industry, ministers said that the water workers' issue was unrelated in policy terms because it was over wages increases.

They were also anxious to put down Tory backbench fears that the Government was planning to introduce import controls to placate the miners.

Controls, it was said, would be the worst way of dealing with the problem. The Government has import substitution in mind. The Central Electricity Generating Board will be told to buy the more expensive British coal and the Government will pay the difference between that and what it would have cost to buy imported coal.

Meanwhile, Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, accused the Daily Express of carrying on a vendetta against him and said he was considering what action to take. The newspaper, under the headline "Prior the Plotter", carried a report yesterday suggesting that he had carried out secret negotiations with Mr. Joseph Gormley, the miners' leader, behind the back of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and Cabinet colleagues.

Nunn moves to take chess victory

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

The match for the Grieverson Grant British Championship ended yesterday in victory for John Nunn, the international grandmaster, over William Hartston, the international master, by three and a half to two and a half points.

The game was a lively one, but the result could not affect the destination of the title as even had Hartston won that game the drawn match would have given the title to Nunn on the Sonneborn-Berger point count.

Nunn started the game with 1 P-K4, and Hartston defended with a solid variation of the Sicilian Defence. Both sides seemed to be playing for the attack, but when on move 20 Nunn first offered the sacrifice of a piece and then proposed a draw, Hartston refused the proposal and captured the piece.

Five more moves were played, and then Hartston, perhaps feeling there was not much point in continuing, offered the draw.

Hartston emerged from the encounter with considerable credit.

Visiting Prince greeted by demonstrators

From Our Correspondent
Swansea

The Prince of Wales faced demonstrators when he travelled to South Wales yesterday. One group, protesting about pit closures, chanted "Save the pits, shut the palace" throughout a ceremony in which the Prince received the freedom of Swansea on behalf of the Royal Regiment of Wales.

Other demonstrators shouted abuse about the refusal by the University College of Wales, Swansea, of which the prince is Chancellor, to accept Mr. John Jenkins as a student.

The Prince, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Regiment of Wales, had flown to Swansea in a helicopter which landed in playing fields about a mile from the Guildhall where the freedom ceremony was held.

He inspected sections of the regiment's first battalion and, after accepting the freedom of the city on its behalf, said the regiment and its forebears had been associated with Swansea for 122 years.



Sailors from HMS Argonaut, moored in the Upper Pool of London, reenacting the traditional presentation of the due payable to the Constable of the Tower of London.

Sequel to 'Panorama' debate starts further controversy over code Brain death tests may have to be repeated

By Nicholas Timmins

The medical royal colleges, which drew up the British criteria for diagnosing brain death, will consider introducing a compulsory repeat of the tests after a suitable time lag of perhaps 24 hours if there is pressure for this from the medical profession.

They will also consider having the tests performed by two consultants instead of the present system of one consultant and one other doctor who has been qualified for at least five years.

Professor Gordon Robson, secretary of the conference of the royal colleges, said yesterday: "It may be there will be a public demand for this, and these views would have considerable medical support."

"At present the tests are practically always repeated anyway, and the code lays down that if a transplant is involved the surgeon must in any case

satisfy himself that the criteria have been fulfilled before he takes the kidneys."

"But if it is necessary to introduce a mandatory repeat of the tests, and to have them performed by two consultants, in order to restore public confidence then I am quite sure that will be considered."

But the colleges would not, on the present evidence, consider introducing an EEG test of brain activity or an angiogram.

The absence of an EEG did not prove the brain was dead. It would be misleading the public to tell them that a flat EEG proved brain death.

Angiograms, which indicate blood flow through the brain, were unnecessary because the contrast medium used could itself destroy the brain if only limited circulation was still present.

Professor Robson was speaking after Thursday night's BBC

television programme, "A Question of Life or Death", which led to a fresh dispute between the supporters of the British code and its critics. It was a debate arising from a Panorama programme last October.

Dr. Ronald Paul, a consultant neurophysiologist at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry, said on Thursday's programme that two patients had survived after meeting the brain death criteria. Both had been involved in road traffic accidents.

No evidence to support the assertion was presented on the programme and another participant, Dr. Christopher Pallis, consultant neurologist at Hammersmith Hospital, London, challenged Dr. Paul yesterday to make all the evidence and records available to an independent inquiry.

He accused Dr. Paul of irresponsibility and sensationalism in announcing the cases on television when details had not

been published and examined. Dr. Paul could not be reached yesterday for comment.

Mr. Robert Sells, a Liverpool transplant surgeon, protested yesterday that he was "very, very angry indeed" that a clip from the original Panorama programme on brain death, which he had already complained had been distorted by editing, was used again in Thursday night's programme by the critics of the criteria.

In it, he said there had been occasions when he had been called to possible donors to find they did not meet the criteria; but the explanation of why that was had been cut, he said.

The patients had low body temperature by the time he arrived, he added, and had to be restored to normal temperature for him to be satisfied that the criteria were fully met.

"It was a highly manipulative piece of editing," he said. Fears remain, page 12

£50m bill for halting miners' action

By Nicholas Hirst
and Frances Williams

The cost next year of averting a miners' strike over the pit closures planned by National Coal Board could be as low as £50m, Whitehall sources suggested yesterday.

That would be equivalent to 1p on a packet of 20 cigarettes or less than 1p on a pint of beer. Raised across the range of excise duties, it would add less than 0.1 per cent to the retail price index.

The relatively small cost involved may go a long way to explain the ministry with which the Government agreed to the miners' demands.

It appears that the coal board's real difficulty is the damage to its cash flow created by a loss to imports of eight million tonnes of domestic sales this year.

Despite the effects of the recession, the board will keep within its external financing limit of £84 this year and stick to the targeted loss to be made up by the deficit grants laid down in the Coal Act 1980.

If sales could be increased it is believed that there would be little difficulty in sticking to the rest of the financial strategy.

A subsidy of about £50m could well meet the difference between domestic buyers getting home-produced rather than imported coal.

But of long-term difficulty of coal produced from uneconomic pits will remain. Those mines will, however, continue to be closed under the review procedure agreed with the miners' union.

Effectively, the Government will be switching money it had

earmarked to increase redundancy payments to the miners to accelerate closures and to a shorter-term expedient of subsidising sales.

The amount of that money should be small enough to come out of the contingency reserve of about £1,400m built into estimates of public expenditure in 1981-82 and should not involve any additional tax rise in the Budget.

But there is the difficulty of where the money for subsidies to make the coal cheaper is to come from. Grants to the National Coal Board are limited under the Coal Act. It does not appear to allow sufficient leeway to allow additional help.

Interest-free loans, however, could provide the answer.

Pit formula gets both sides off the hook

Continued from page 1

indication of the official anxiety felt over the threat of pit strikes. However, the board may have been hastened into giving ground by false fears.

Some pit delegates in Barnsley doubted whether the area council would have produced a majority for strike action, and whether it would have been carried out by all the men if passed.

The formula produced by Mr. Scargill after his talks with Sir Derek on a loudspeaker telephone, audible to his colleagues in regional NUM offices, therefore pending the outcome of talks between the National Union of Mineworkers, the coal board, and the Government.

Mr. Scargill insisted that the industrial action was only suspended and would be reimposed if talks with Mr. David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, failed to produce an acceptable agreement on coal import controls, relaxation of NCB cash limits, operating subsidies, and no pit closures except on grounds of severe exhaustion.

However, the prospect of a second round of unofficial strikes appears remote. Kent meeting: The Kent Area Council will meet today to consider whether to recommend a strike to 3,000 miners at a mass meeting in Margate tomorrow (Donald MacIntyre writes).

Mr. Jack Collins, the Area secretary last night refused to be drawn on when recommended that he thought the Council would make, but said that yesterday the miners at Snowdown Colliery, where the threatened closure, were "completely solid" in their strike.

"Many of the men are reluctant to return on the basis of a piece of paper."

The board expects that the 46,000 men on unofficial strike in other areas will return on Monday. The board will hold talks then with the union to prepare for Wednesday's meeting.

Yesterday's decisions were welcomed by Mr. Joseph Gormley, the union's national president.

The decisions show a sense of responsibility and common sense prevailing in the coalfield.

Derbyshire pitmen call off threatened walkout

From Richard Ford
Chesterfield

The threatened strike by 12,000 miners in the Derbyshire coalfield was called off yesterday pending the outcome of talks between the National Union of Mineworkers, the coal board, and the Government.

The result of those talks will be of crucial importance in determining whether miners decide to take further industrial action, Mr. Peter Heathfield, area president of the union in Derbyshire, said.

Despite the unanimous decision in Chesterfield to call off the strike, which was due to begin

on Monday, there is distrust and misgivings over the national deal.

Many miners in Derbyshire believe that yesterday's decision made compromise, ending the danger of fragmented action in different areas.

Mr. Heathfield said the agreement on Wednesday was a play that had achieved its aim of defusing the dispute, but it would be a considerable time before miners could identify the details of the offer.

At collieries in Derbyshire which are set to increase production by 50,000 tons to eight million tons, next year, there was a union official said, "scepticism at the genuineness of the proposals put forward."

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Report costs options for medical schools

By a Staff Reporter

Bigger savings could be made in London's 12 undergraduate medical schools by increasing the ratio of students to staff than by a decision to shut a complete medical school, a working party appointed by London University to cost medical education has concluded.

The report, to be published next week, costs the implications of 17 options for reducing the costs of the medical school. The options include the closure of several medical schools, St. Mary's, Charing Cross, the Middlesex, St. Bartholomew's, the Royal Free, Westminster and St. Thomas's, as well as the possibility of closing six of the preclinical schools.

The report, commissioned in the wake of the Flowers report last year, which recommended wholesale merger of medical schools and the closure of Westminster, simply provides costs and makes no recommendations.

Those will come from meetings of the university's medical academic and planning committees over the next month when the battle over the future of individual schools will begin again.

It is likely, however, that none of the specific options costed in the report will be adopted, but that the mass of data provided will be used to construct new possibilities.

Some observers believe the outcome may be a decision that no single medical school should shut, but that savings should be made by closer association, and possibly long-term mergers, between pairs of medical schools, with some increase in student-staff ratios.

Westminster and Charing Cross, the London and St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's and Guy's, but that University College, the Middlesex have all discussed closer links and in some cases have started to establish them.

That could result in more specialized subjects being taught at only one of the schools in each pair, cutting out some smaller departments and for the staff whose costs make up the bulk of the spending on medical education.

In brief

Cleared artist rearrested

Mr. Norbert Romallo, an Argentinean artist who was held in custody for two and a half years awaiting trial on fraud charges which were later dropped, has been rearrested and is being detained at Ashford remand centre.

It is believed that Mr. Romallo, of West Park, Mottingham, southeast London, was being treated as an illegal entrant and was arrested on Wednesday. He faces deportation.

Grounded ship on fire

The Panamanian registered cargo ship Burguella, 450 tons which went aground off the north Antrim coast two weeks ago, burst into flames yesterday. The crew were winched ashore in a rubber dinghy as a fire badly damaged their quarters, the bridge, and the wheel house.

Brothers who stole

Three brothers from Birmingham, who were said to have been caught with 30 sacks containing 500 rare heathers, which they had dug up on Goshill Downs, Cornwall, were fined £30 each with £10 costs by magistrates at Helston, Cornwall, yesterday. They denied stealing the plants, saying they did not know such action was illegal.

Power to the mops

A national bargaining structure for the 200,000 maintenance workers in the contract cleaning industry is recommended in a report from an Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service which found that the cleaners were among the lowest paid workers in the country.

Raid on casinos

Police investigating alleged gaming offences raided a Playboy Club and the Clermont Casino in the West End of London yesterday and seized documents. The club's administrative offices in north London were also raided.

Boy kills hedgehog

A boy aged 14 who kicked a hedgehog to death because it did not like hedgehogs was given a two-year supervision order at a Portsmouth juvenile court yesterday and ordered to pay costs of £387.

New paper goes ahead

George Outram the Glasgow publisher, owned by Lord Sainsbury, said yesterday that agreement had been reached with union on publication of a new Sunday newspaper for Scotland. It would appear in the late spring.

Linwood delay plea

The Scottish TUC asked Mr. George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, yesterday to delay the closure of the Linwood car plant for a year.

Case list clearing

The backlog of cases in the Queen's Bench Division Court has been virtually eliminated, Lord Justice Ewens announced yesterday.

Arrests after bombing

Two youths were arrested after five petrol bombs were thrown at Littlewoods store in Londonderry yesterday and a fire. No one was injured.

Closer health service link with private units urged

By a Staff Reporter

Health authorities are being encouraged to link the National Health Service and the private hospital sector more closely in changes, which, if implemented, will have wide implications for both the service and private medicine.

The changes, set out in a Department of Health and Social Security circular, allow the health service to pay for patients to use private hospitals in both profit-making and non-profit making private hospitals.

Joint planning, cooperation between the management of the health service and private hospitals, and joint purchasing of supplies by the health service and private hospitals are recommended.

The circular advises health authorities to give priority to the private sector when disposing

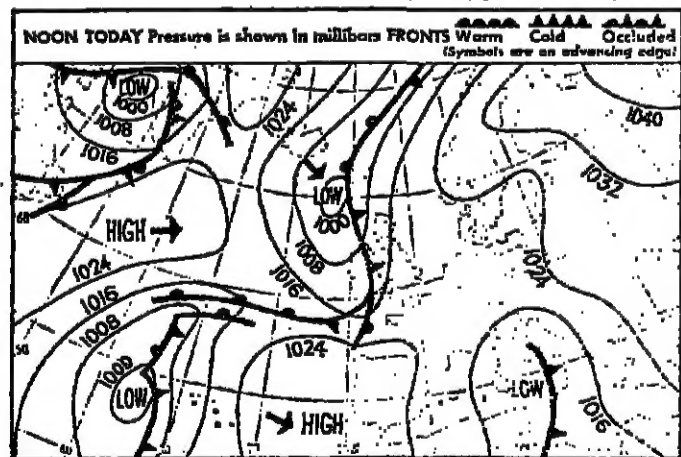
of public-sector land, and to consider leasing temporarily unused public-sector accommodation to the private sector. The health service is also encouraged to provide facilities to the private sector on contract to prevent wasteful duplication of services. The moves are seen by ministers as a way of getting better value for money for the service, and of cutting waiting lists.

They will almost certainly be opposed by unions and the Labour Party as helping the private medical sector to expand with health service funds.

The public service has used the facilities of private hospitals to some degree, but the new guidance recommends an expansion of that, lifting the ban on making arrangements to use beds in profit-making hospitals.

The health service could contract to use private beds

Weather forecast and recordings



Today: Sun rises: 7.03 am; Moon sets: 8.20 am; Sun sets: 5.26 pm; Moon rises: 8.16 pm.

Tomorrow: Sun rises: 7.01 am; Moon sets: 8.41 am; Sun sets: 5.28 pm; Moon rises: 9.22 pm.

Last Quarter: February 27. Lighting up: 5.56 pm to 6.31 am.

High water: London Bridge, 3.19 am, 7.11 am, 3.42 pm, 7.39 am, 4.04 pm, 8.49 am, 12.41 pm, 12.24 pm, 6.41 pm, 7.52 am, 7.23 pm, 7.06 pm, 12.36 am, 9.41 am, 12.49 pm, 9.24 pm.

An area of low pressure is moving SE towards Ireland, while a frontal trough moves slowly E into extreme W parts.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, E Midlands, Central N England: Mostly dry, bright periods with frost early and late; moderate, light, becoming SE, moderate; max temp 2° to 4°C (36° to 39°F).

E, SE England, East Anglia: Mainly dry, sunny intervals with scattered wintry showers near coasts; frost early and late; wind variable, light, becoming SE, moderate; max temp 2° to 4°C (36° to 39°F).

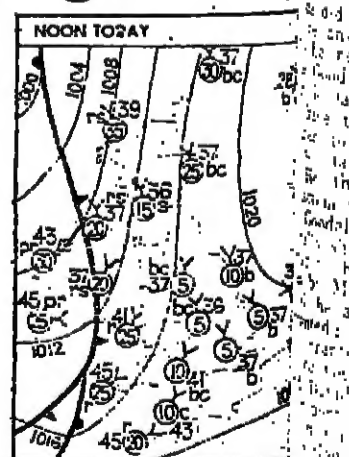
NW, Central S England, W Midlands: Mostly dry, bright periods with perhaps some snow in W later; frost early and late; wind S or SE, light or moderate; max temp 2° to 4°C (36° to 39°F).

SW England, S Wales: Becoming cloudy, snow from W, perhaps heavy with drifting later but turning to rain in extreme W; wind S or SE, light increasing fresh or strong; max temp 3° to 5°C (37° to 41°F).

Channel Islands, N Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland: Cloudy; sleet or snow from W with perhaps some drifting; wind S or SE, moderate, increasing fresh or strong; max temp 2° to 4°C (36° to 39°F).

Lake District, NE England Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Mostly dry, bright periods; wind S or SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 3° to 5°C (37° to 41°F).

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House of Oriental Rugs
Genuine Oriental rugs, hand-woven in the classic tradition. Featuring first grade Pakistani carpets & rugs. New department now in
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OPEN SUNDAY 10am-4.30pm

فكرنا من الأصل

he sale

Cabinet's decision to approve the sale was sanctioned by the House by only two votes. At the beginning of this month, the Government was shaken by the severity of Peking's reaction, the House carried an opposition motion by 76 votes to 70, asking the Government to reconsider the decision. Eleven MPs belonging to the ruling Christian Democratic Party voted against the Government.

The Cabinet's decision not to carry the House's wishes is, however, not expected to lead to a political crisis. Although the Opposition is expected to table a motion of censure, now what the future of the Government is at stake most of the 11 Christian Democratic Members are expected to rally to the Cabinet's defence.

OVERSEAS

Afghan leader rejects international conference proposal

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 20

President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan today categorically rejected President Giscard d'Estaing's recent proposal for an international conference on his country, saying Afghanistan "rejected any attempt to give an international colouring" to the question.

Speaking to a packed press conference here after arriving for the Soviet Communist Party congress which opens on Monday, President Karmal said he presumed the French President was a "reasonable person", but Afghanistan rejected any proposal that did not take into account the will of the people. This will, it became clear, was perfectly embodied in the policies and actions of the ruling party in Afghanistan and in President Karmal himself. His Government was absolutely legitimate, he insisted, because it was established according to the people's will and in accordance with democratic procedures. In any case there were to be elections, as soon as the party had consolidated the new "Fatherland front".

Mr Karmal also asserted it was the will of the people to invite a limited contingent of Soviet troops to render fraternal assistance because of the undeclared war against the Afghan revolution started by the Peking-Islamabad-Washington triangle.

He refused to specify the exact number since he had often stated that the contingent was limited, but it was far fewer than the total alleged by the propaganda machinery of imperialism, hegemonism and reaction.

The Afghan leader, flanked by Soviet party spokesmen, waved and beamed to the dozens of cameras and hundreds of journalists when he came in, and then lectured them for more than an hour on the history of foreign—and especially British—conspiracies against his country. The Afghan people had waged a ceaseless struggle against colonialism, imperialism and their NATO allies to cover up their own atrocities around the world.

"Who can believe that the Soviet Union, a country whose policy is based on peace, could commit such atrocities in Afghanistan?" he asked. He blandly explained this unexpected proclamation by his revolutionary optimism.

As for accusations of napalm being used by Soviet troops, this was a shameful lie, a slanderous statement put out by American imperialists and their NATO allies to cover up their own atrocities around the world.

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Politicians excluded from Seoul amnesty

From Jacqueline Rediff
Seoul, Feb 20

South Korea's banned politicians and left-wing dissidents will be excluded from what is expected to be the country's largest general amnesty.

President Chung Doo-hwan told leading politicians today that when the new president and the fifth republic is inaugurated on March 3, he will follow the Korean tradition of offering amnesty to many of those in detention.

But he made it clear that elements would not be extended to "left-wing elements", a term usually used to refer to those accused of pro-communist activities. Mr Chun also said he would not lift the ban, imposed last November, which prevents more than 550 former politicians from engaging in any form of political activity.

The ban applies to Mr Kim Dae Jung, serving a life sentence for pro-communist activities and sedition, to the leaders of the two former political parties, Mr Kim Jong Pil and Mr Kim Young Sam, and to a number of former members of parliament. The banned politicians are not allowed to join a political party for the next eight years.

Seoul National University announced today that it was considering pardoning some of the students who were suspended last year for participating in demonstrations and campus disturbances.

The dean of student affairs said that repentant students would be allowed back but those considered "beyond the professor's persuasion" would continue to be suspended for a further period or urged to join the army.

If leniency is creeping in, in some areas, the social purification committee, made it clear today that the Government is not taking a "free and easy" attitude just yet.

Last week, all private tuition was banned in Korea and today the committee announced that Mrs Kim Pong Im, the director of the Seoul Opera Troupe, and seven others had been dismissed from their positions for giving private music lessons. Parents who allow their children to have any sort of private tuition are also liable to dismissal and two fathers, one a bank manager, the other the managing director of a commercial company, today lost their jobs.

The trial of Mr Abuhazera, the Israeli politician, was postponed today because of the forthcoming general election and because of repeated claims that it amounts to an establishment vendetta against certain Jews.

Mr Gortlieb is alleged by the prosecution to have been the go-between who arranged for three Jewish religious colleges to pay bribes to Mr Abuhazera to obtain a defence case in telephone conversations with a police agent, the key witness has been granted immunity from prosecution, on condition that he gives evidence against the minister and three other defendants including a rabbi.

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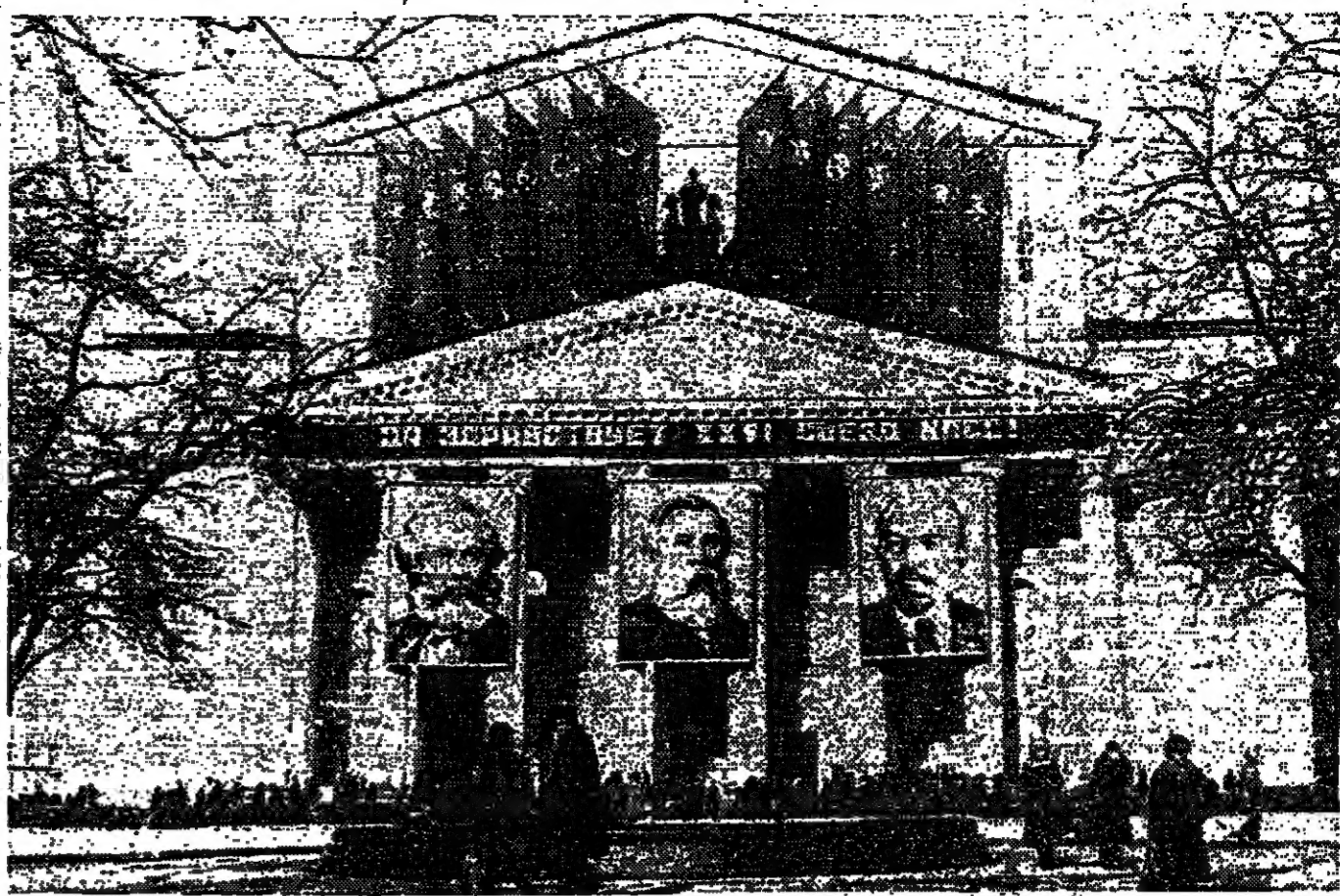
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Portraits of Marx, Engels and Lenin hanging outside the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow yesterday as part of the capital's welcome for the Communist Party congress which starts on Monday.

Israelis put under guard

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 20

Mr Yisrael Gortlieb, the chief prosecution witness in the trial of Mr Abuhazera, Israel's Religious Affairs Minister, has been moved from his home to a temporary residence in a heavily guarded police holiday camp near the Mediterranean resort of Netanya.

The move comes less than a week before the witness, who is deputy mayor of a religious suburb of Tel Aviv, is due to make his first appearance in the witness box at Jerusalem district court.

Results from repeated threats against Mr Gortlieb's life and an assault on him earlier this week by an ultra-orthodox Jew allegedly employed by one of the minister's three defendants.

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Changes made in Zimbabwe press 'to reflect new social order'

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, Feb 20

The changes outlined by the Zimbabwe Government last month in the running of the country's press take effect this week when three new editors move into their chairs.

At The Herald in Salisbury, the main daily newspaper in the group that was taken over by the Government-appointed Mr Farayi Munyuki, the new editor, was working with Mr Robin Drew, his predecessor, until today, when Mr Drew left.

The changeover is the culmination of a series of moves announced by Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Minister of Information, last month. The takeover reflected the Government's dissatisfaction with the editorial content of the newspapers before and since independence. Mr Shamuyarira said that the Argus press had been preoccupied with the interests of whites in the country and had been guilty of distortions and misrepresentations.

The move was interpreted in the Argus as an attempt to bring the press under the control of the Government.

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The most experienced of the three new editors is Mr Willie Musarurwa, who took over at The Sunday Mail on Tuesday. With a circulation of about 120,000, his paper has the largest readership in the country.

Mr Musarurwa is a former publicity secretary of the Zimbabwe African Patriotic Front party and has worked for a number of news organizations. Colleagues regard him as a forthright and outspoken journalist.

Of his new role Mr Musarurwa says: "Any newspaper operates within a framework set by the social order obviously that will be different in a colonial and an independent country."

While I support our Government, there will be criticism of the Government where we see ministers acting against the social order or in a corrupt or incompetent way."

He insists on the need for an independent press and sees its function as a meeting point for the Government and the electorate.

"When the press lies to the government it is doing it to the people. When it lies to the people it is cheating them. In the same way, an unbalanced view is a dangerous view and an unbalanced government will be in trouble with the public."

The three editors will be attempting to increase the circulation of their papers among black readers by carrying more news on events in townships and rural areas while retaining as far as possible the white readership.

There will have to be, Mr Musarurwa says, some reduction in coverage of foreign news but he adds: "You don't exclude white readers by finding new black ones."

There was some justification in criticism that the papers were insensitive to black readers. A recent feature in the Sunday Mail urged readers to "be more sensitive to the needs of the black community."

Efforts by Mr Drew—who was appointed editor of The Herald at independence—to adjust the newspaper to new conditions in the country have been publicly acknowledged by Mr Shamuyarira.

Diplomatic links: The Zimbabwe Government had signed an agreement on Wednesday to establish diplomatic relations with Poland, it was announced today. A formal announcement on the establishment of ties with the Soviet Union is to be made tomorrow.

Some newspapers have savoured the fact that the delivery of a double uterus was a rare condition but not unknown. The gravid uterus and the foetus were removed in a separate operation. He added that there had been no report of the birth in medical circles which was in itself unusual.

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Mystery of S African sextuplets' birth

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Feb 20

Sextuplets, reported to be born to a 17-year-old white South African woman, were conspicuous by their absence today.

What makes the birth even more extraordinary is a claim that one of the babies was born 23 days after the other five. South African newspaper naturally, have been frantic to establish the facts, the biggest Afrikaans Sunday newspaper has wielded a largest cheque and bought a story.

But spokesmen for the newspaper said today that so they had been unable to obtain a picture of the babies.

Miss Charmaine Peterson reported to have given birth five of her babies in Cape Town on November 8. She is now in Windhoek with 41-year-old Mr Frank Craig whom she married on February 4. The met in Windhoek last year a Mr. Craig, but to the city after the birth of the sextuplets.

The babies were not with them today. Mr Craig told reporters he had not seen them. Mrs Craig, asked where the sextuplets were, said: "I don't know. You must ask someone who knows."

A relative said there were some strong reasons why the babies had not been seen earlier. They were born Cape Town but for some special reasons which I cannot reveal they were brought to Johannesburg, the relative said.

The Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail reported that the babies had been born to a white woman who was a local welfare official but was soon to be married to the parents in Windhoek.

According to the Guinness Book of Records the only surviving sextuplets are all South African—born to Mrs. Susan Peterson in Cape Town on January 11, 1974. They weighed in at a total of 24 1/2 oz. and no secret at all was attached to their arrival.

Mr. Schalk Van Der Merwe, the Minister of Health at the time, said the babies were set up in a bank which he organized a trust fund and marked with a degree of chagrin that he had made speech the previous day at a birth control.

The Rosenkranz children, The Rosenkranz, Jason, Emma, Grant and Elizabeth—are extremely well known to South Africans as stars of television commercials.

Medical specialists in Johannesburg today said it was "highly unusual" that Mr. Craig had given birth to six of her children on October 1 and the sixth on November 1.

However, a leading Johannesburg gynaecologist said the birth could be the result of a mother having a double uterus. He said the babies were born at birth and sheared off the placenta which would mean that if a baby was left behind in a single uterus it would die.

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Poland given moratorium on debts by Moscow

From Dossa Trevisan
Warsaw, Feb 20

The Soviet Union has agreed to defer until 1985 the repayment of Polish credits granted in the past five years.

It is understood this includes the sum of about \$85m in hard currency given by Moscow to Poland some months ago.

An agreement on this year's trade was signed in Moscow yesterday which shows Soviet continued readiness to assist Poland economically. Almost half of Poland's raw materials are supplied by the Soviet Union at prices which, as in the case of 13 million tons of crude oil, are considerably below market rates.

Poland's debt with the West is about \$10,000m and debt servicing alone will cost about \$3,500m this year.

Creditors' meeting: The Soviet debt moratorium could encourage Poland's Western creditors to take similar steps, according to financial experts (Reuters reports from Warsaw).

They said the Soviet decision may have a favourable impact on a meeting of Poland's Western creditors in Paris next week.

Forest **fined**
Zurich, Feb. 20.—Nottingham Forest were today fined 30,000 Swiss francs (about £8,600) for displaying advertising material on players' shirts during a Europe Super-cup match in December.—Renter.

grip in midfield. Ainscow scored first, timing his leap perfectly to head in a firmly-taken free kick by Lengua. Two minutes later Evans dribbled round Rangers after a neat through pass by Gemmill and a cross from captain Boyd. Ainscow scored two minutes later, after Ainscow had done the spadework.

Evans completed the rout after another inspired throw-in by Gemmill and created the perfect opening. For Norwich Fashanu looped a brilliant cross into the net as Boyd tried to support him, but Todd and Gallacher never gave them a sight of the goal.

D. Leman, K. Broadhurst, K. Dillon, E. Evans, P. Worthington, A. Gemmill, I. McRitchie, C. R. Hansbury, K. Boyd, J. Duggan, J. Phillips, M. McNichol, P. Mendham, D. Watson, M. Wainwright, G. Whelan, S. Curdson, S. Dobie, B. Sandbach, T. Referee: D. Shaw

Millent County

ion—currently fourth from the bottom—points are never easily won at Nisan Park. As to why

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SPORT

Cricket

Good sense prevails to benefit of Jackman

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Georgetown, Feb 20

The England cricket team lost their vice-captain today when Bob Willis flew back to England having bowled only seven overs on the tour. He will be replaced by Robin Jackman, who would have been in most people's side when it was first chosen. Jackman will be put on the first available flight to Georgetown.

Willis will be missed. It was because he is a particularly good bowler that England pressed to have him out here, though it must have been against the selectors' better judgment to take such a chance with his fitness. More and more, it seems to me, the few marginal places in a touring side are becoming the captain's prerogative.

Once it had been established that Willis's left knee was not going to respond to treatment, three options were open to the tour committee. They could recommend to Lord's that Willis be left unfilled, or that an extra batsman (Athey for example) be sent for, or that one of the two standby fast bowlers, Jackman and Hogg, should come out. In the event, justice and good sense have prevailed and Lord's is given a well-deserved chance.

Hogg, currently playing club cricket in Melbourne on a Whitbread scholarship, has been having only moderate success there. To have preferred him to Jackman, whose bag of 121 wickets last season has only once been surpassed (by Lance Gibbs in 1971) since the reduction of championship matches in 1969, would have been downright unfair, and it is hard to see how he could have been brought to notice to bowl at Richards and he is not the side to get much in the way of bounce, but he has done a lot of bowling and he is very keen and very fit.

The position of the selectors, which is the gift of the selectors at home, is to be left open, for the moment at any rate. It would probably go to Willis if he is not sure of a regular place in the Test side, which he is not. When, briefly, Bohan left the field in the first match last Saturday, Miller took charge, though Boy-



Jackman: very keen and very fit.

cott, Old and Gooch were all playing well for Tom. Miller said, "I feel very sorry for Bob but obviously the team would have been put to work yesterday, if only to bring back the team together after the postponement of the previous day—especially as today was always going to be spent travelling. Instead, some took the trouble to have a bat or a bowl and some could not be bothered."

Jackman delighted: "I feel very sorry for Bob but obviously the team would have been put to work yesterday, if only to bring back the team together after the postponement of the previous day—especially as today was always going to be spent travelling. Instead, some took the trouble to have a bat or a bowl and some could not be bothered."

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colleague Watson. "This is an important week for Tom," Miller said, "if he doesn't do well here he might start thinking, 'what's happening?' He's always torn up the West Coast tourneys and here in the 60s and 70s he was a 65 to take a slender one stroke lead over six others over one round of the 200,000 Glen Campbell Los Angeles Open here. Breathing down the neck of Morgan, an opportunist from Oklahoma, with 66s were Miller Barber, Keith Fennas, Bruce Leszke, Johnny Miller, John Cook and Namio Takas. Ron Commons, from the nearby Westlake Village, is alone with his round of 67.

Of the Britons, Michael King was best with a 68 and Nick Faldo, from Welwyn Garden City, finished one stroke behind him. Faldo completed the first nine with a two under par 33 and the second to three under par 36. Today, Jackman, on a 30, and Nick Faldo, on a 30, were finishing down the list with a 75, one over par 36 for the first nine and a three over par 39 on the back line.

The way things went in the warm sunshine with a breeze, it might take even par to make the cut after today's third round. "I don't think Rivera is going to give up a whole lot more," noted Morgan, who won the Los Angeles Open in 1975. "The greens are not as green as I expected. I imagine they'll be firm by the weekend."

Morgan held his precarious first place after taking the lead late in the day with two 20ft putts at the 16th and 18th holes. At the close of play after Peter Jacobsen, on a 30, and Nick Faldo, on a 30, were finishing down the list with a 75, one over par 36 for the first nine and a three over par 39 on the back line.

Two of the tournament's main attractions, Tom Watson and Lee Trevino, are both on and on the brink of being cut from the final two rounds. J. Miller, who knows the feeling being on top and sliding at the very bottom, was apprehensive for his golf

regular running and indoor nets with Surrey. He has made five appearances for England in Prudential Trophy matches, but he has never played against India in 1974, one against West Indies in 1976 and two against Australia in 1980—but he has never been in the side when he was made twelfth man for the Centenary Test match. He has played for Western Province and Rhodesia in the past, but his best bowling performance remains the eight for 40 he took for Rhodesia against Natal at Durban eight years ago.

Willis said: "I bowled about 20 balls in the test yesterday and after about six I realized it wasn't going to be very good. When I was the local specialist he assured me that there was no damage to the knee joint and that it was rotational ligaments that were the trouble. Obviously I am shattered that the tour has to end for me in this way, although I am pleased that the problem can be sorted out before the summer."

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Southgate's home match against St Albans should be equally interesting. Although Doncaster in the previous round, St Albans survived a thrilling match which they won on penalty strokes, thanks to the splendid goalkeeping of Stuart Pearce. St Albans, who will be kept busy again today.

Recruitment from the under-21 ranks of the England team has so far been patchy. The first round of the London League and the London League club left in the tournament are fortunate to be at home to St Albans and Slough in the Midlands who came through against Bluebirds. Slough, there, too, are extra time. Bromley, too, were taken to extra time by Westcott when they defeated 2-1. The score, full time was 1-0.

Neuston will be taking half the Cheshire and Lancashire sides in the previous round. Slough, in the previous round, had beaten Breen 2-1. But Neuston who had scored a hat-trick in the previous round, should find the opposition a little tougher at the Sp. ground tomorrow.

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Racing

Powerful case for Midnight Court

By Michael Seely

Midnight Court, the winner of the 1978 Cheltenham Gold Cup, will be out to reestablish his reputation over fences in the Jerry M. Handicap Steeplechase at Lingfield Park today, where there will be a precautionary inspection at 7.30 am. Newcastle features its Grand National trial, the four-mile, one-furlong Eider Steeplechase. Although Highland Wedding won the Eider for the third time in 1969, the same year as his triumph at Aintree, the weather has only allowed this gruelling test of stamina to be run four times in the last 10 years.

At Nottingham Tragus will be attempting to win his third valuable handicap off the red in the Cosca Homes Steeplechase. Badsworth won his first seven races over fences last season. However, his jumping found him out when he was pitted against the Irish flying machine, Amalgam's Daughter, at Cheltenham. Similarly, in the early part of this campaign, Jon Joel's gelding was let down by his erratic jumping against more assured jumpers.

Beacon Light has reassessed himself recently, having won easily at Sandown Park and having beaten Rathmore and Night Nurse at Doncaster. However, going was riding fast at Doncaster, which suited the 10-year-old's flat style of jumping and he never failed to stand back and jump off his hocks.

Fred Winter's star shortened dramatically in price for the Gold Cup. Midnight Court made a sparkling comeback over hurdles at Cheltenham recently when beating Freight Forwarder by 12 lengths. However, he suffered a reverse when pulled up in the Cricklade Hurdle at Newbury last week. Winter says that the horse must have rapped a nerve, but he is now sound again.

Both Beacon Light and Bueche Glorid are formidable opponents. Beacon Light, formerly a top-class hurdler, won his first seven races over fences last season. However, his jumping found him out when he was pitted against the Irish flying machine, Amalgam's Daughter, at Cheltenham. Similarly, in the early part of this campaign, Jon Joel's gelding was let down by his erratic jumping against more assured jumpers.

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Trainer is reported for horse's two runs

Harry Bell, the trainer, has reported for his two consecutive races at Newcastle today but his decision led to local stewards taking the view that the matter should be referred to the Jockey Club.

Bell said: "I have not been by any rules. It was the case paying £40 for a double deduction and £30 for a non-runner. I decided to pay the 'jockey' of £30. Never stop, I said, I was in the opening Syc Opportunity Novices. Now Hurdle went to Enby, and in the Oak Handicap Hurdle, I was pulled up by Justafer."

Sparkie's Choice is regarded as a top-class horse. He was a winner of the Doncaster sales year ago, and gained his election to the Doncaster Steeplechase by three in from The Engineer.

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Newcastle programme

[Television (ITV): 1.45, 2.20 and 2.55 races]

1.45 BREAM HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £898: 2m 120yd)

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2.20 THREE RIVES CHASE (Qualifier: £2,212: 2 1/2m)

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2.55 EIDER CHASE (Handicap: £5,558: 4m 1f)

2.55 EIDER CHASE (Handicap: £5,558: 4m 1f)

3.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

3.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

4.0 MINNOW HURDLE (4-y-o: £2,406: 2m 120yd)

4.0 MINNOW HURDLE (4-y-o: £2,406: 2m 120yd)

4.30 BREAM HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £928: 2m 120yd)

4.30 BREAM HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £928: 2m 120yd)

5.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

5.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

5.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

5.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

6.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

6.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

6.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

6.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

7.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

7.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

7.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

7.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

8.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

8.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

8.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

8.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

9.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

9.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

9.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

9.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

10.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

10.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

10.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

10.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

11.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

11.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

11.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

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12.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

12.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

12.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

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13.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

13.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

13.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

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14.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

14.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

14.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

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15.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

15.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

15.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

15.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

16.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

16.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £4,487: 2m)

16.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

16.30 CORBRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £875: 2m)

17.0 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHASE (Handicap: £

Saturday Review



Flora Annie Webster in 1867

Writing behind the curtains

by Violet Powell

When Flora Annie Steel sailed from Bombay in 1889 she was returning land with her husband, life which would, in be that of the wife of ed Indian Civil Servant. id, it is true, left a repu- behind her as an inspec- of Schools, famous bout the Punjab for her ness of bureaucratic. She had also some re- is the co-author of a use- domestic handbook, *The ste Indian Housekeeper ook*. But at 40 years of ere was little to suggest e was about to develop novelist whose master- in the Indian Mutiny has unchanged for its y until today.

In 1847 of Lowland and West Highland, Flora Annie Webster arrived at the age of 21, a who had nearly bolted way to the altar, a panic by the bride. Thus un- usally united, the young had at once sailed for a drastic initiation which t them many years of ad- and happiness in each company.

he start Henry Steel's s were at stations in the where few Europeans o be found. Fascinated strange new world, Flora came involved in native life with an intensity is unusual, if not unique, the wives of Indian s. Although without for- tation, Flora had ab- a library of medical n her Fortarshire home, d had a sound musical e, and she was also a sive sketcher.

lacking in self-confi- Flora was willing to doc- sick of her husband's, while her musical gifts useful in churches, in and in concerts which d morale during epi- For these she painted, and wherever she trav- sketch book was filled r impressions of people, t and plants. Once, only with her pencil, she nfronted by a wild pig- hen she took a step to- im, fled in terror. Many who had to confront Mrs t her most intransigent have sympathized with s reaction.

her husband moved from : to posting. Flora, to, dialed came easily, herself with setting up, first for boys, and later ls, when her neighbours at she respected local cul- ls she studied the vari- s of each district, her un- interest made her and respected by the s she doctored and s her own early married s saddened by the birth still-born child, remained with her over- securing as a theme in r Indian novels and in with a European back-

Steel's educational ac- frequently brought her omly waters, particularly ion to the newly created city of the Punjab, a per- of the then Lieutenant- or, determination to expose orrupt practices which iving the new University name did not endear her authorities. Officials of te personal integrity eluctant to believe that ic qualifications were be- ight and sold. The Secre- e Government, son-in-law e Lieutenant-Governor, ed to Henry Steel to keep e in order. "Take her for nth and try," replied husband with the voice erence.

ly the scandal was un- d and Mrs Steel's insis- tions were proved to be : As a recompense for ruggle she was sent to stay with Lord Duf- the Viceroy. A great- on of Sheridan, the Vice- ricularly appreciated his theatrical gifts, curls cheeks and yellow, her star turn as the "Terrible, which convul- d Dufferin so that he fell from his chair. Steel herself considered te had exercised restraint spect of her husband's during her 20 years in but when she settled to write novels such in- was evaporated. She des- her heroes, such as John ison, with enthusiasm, but

she laid about her with equal vigour when she wished to castigate what she saw as the stupidities of the Raj. Not un- naturally her writing was com- pared with that of Rudyard Kip- ling, her junior, but writing contemporaneously, with whose artist father she had collabora- ted in the production of Indian primers.

It was not a comparison that Mrs Steel seems to have relish- ed. She was prepared to ack- nowledge Kipling's genius, but she was conscious that, as a woman, she had penetrated the life of "those behind the cur- tains" in the zenanas, an area barred to a European man. She shared Kipling's disapproval of the unimaginative treatment of sexual problems among British soldiers in India, but on at least one occasion she wrote sardon- ically of a young clerk who had enlisted for service overseas after reading *The Arabian Nights and Soldiers Three*.

On the *Face of the Waters*, Flora Annie Steel's novel of the Mutiny, was written after a period of research into archives at Delhi which had been sealed for 30 years. Its historical accuracy has never been dis- puted, but, in addition, the drama in which she wrapped the skeleton of history gripped the public imagination, turned down by Macmillan, publisher of her earlier books, it was brought out by the young Wil- liam Heinemann, who was re- warding by seeing the novel rock- eting into the best seller class on both sides of the Atlantic. She did not limit herself to stock characters, soldiers, Indian civilians or native princes. The adulterous love- affair, which is the hinge of the plot, concerns the seamy lives of shady contractors and crooked race riders. If later books never had the same daz- zling success, Mrs Steel re- mained an admired author for the rest of her life of over- eighty years.

Women's Suffrage was a cause which brought out all the qualities of Mrs Steel's temper- ment. She even debated the question in public with the for- midable anti-Suffragist Mrs Humphry Ward, believing that reason and ridicule were more potent weapons than thrown bricks or paper to railings. Her one rally into action over the Suffrage was carefully planned to prove her point. Arguing that if she was judged to be liable to pay rates she was surely capable of paying an X on a voting paper, Mrs Steel re- fused to pay the rates demanded for her Welsh holiday cottage. She was faced by an auction of her goods by the sheriff's officer, the first lot being the opening pages of *On the Face of the Waters* with laudatory re- views. Supporting his best seller, William Heinemann secured it for more than the sum required in distraint. *The Times* printed a rather guarded version of the incident, but laudatory reviews to railings. Her one rally into action over the Suffrage was carefully planned to prove her point.

Even in later life Mrs Steel's gift for ridiculing her opponents remained unimpaired. An ill- advised attempt to detain her on Ellis Island when she landed briefly at New York, brought a storm on to the head of the immigration officer concerned. This protest and his repercus- sions would, she hoped, improve the future lot of solitary female travellers in their late sixties.

The First World War found Mrs Steel eager for work, or perhaps more correctly eager to organize the work of others. She was hampered by the ex- tinguished by suggestions that she should confine her- self to the knitting of socks, and until her death in 1929 she continued to speak on any sub- ject about which she felt strongly. Her interest in philo- sophy and religion was un- abated, though at times she showed some confusion of mind as to whether the women for whose cause she fought were victims or predators. In her autobiography she was able to boast that *On the Face of the Waters* had never gone out of print. Many recent popular success- es, books, films, radio and televi- sion programmes which deal with the British in India owe a debt to the "sunburnt little lady in a wide pink hat", as she once described herself. Flora Annie Steel never lost the avidity for new experience and the wish to help the unfor- tunate which had made her admired and beloved when she was the young wife of a Deputy

Commissioner in the Punjab. If Flora Annie Steel's right to an entry in the *Dictionary of National Biography* rests chiefly on the success of her novel of the Mutiny, it was her activities in the field of Indian education that first gave her the insight shown so remarkably in *On the Face of the Waters*. Steel's duties at Kasur included the inspection of schools, in which the low standard of the English lessons shocked his wife who accompanied him on these tours. To improve the standard she instituted reading classes in the garden of the domed court- house, which was how she learnt the sad story, already men- tioned, of the thirteen-year-old father.

After class the boys were brought into the house itself, where Flora sang them the sentimental ballads of the period. Although the tunes were totally different in tone and structure from the patterns of Indian music, her pupils found them delightful. They were even moved to tears by such "special favourites" as "Home they brought her war- rior dead". Curiously enough, the drawing-room ballad sung in India long after the end of the Raj. Only a few years ago a translation of Tennyson's *Maud* could be heard as back- ground music at a party in the state capital of Hyderabad. Flora would hardly have approved of this performance as she had expressed herself strongly on the absurdity of translating Tennyson's *Lotus Eaters* into garbled Urdu. Impressed by the success and popularity of Flora's teaching methods, the Chief Native Administrator suggested that a girls school might be started. Female education was a deli-

cate matter in India, as it led inevitably, to questions of eman- cipation, not always relished by those who might be supposed to benefit from a freer life. As the suggestion came from an official who was also President of the Municipal Committee, it was supported locally. Had the scheme originated with Flora, suspicions ranging from reli- gious subversion to the kidnab- ping of daughters might have easily sabotaged the project.

Although there were few Hindus in Kasur, the benevo- lent balance kept by the Sirkar in educational matters required that, in any officially recog- nized school, both Hindu and Muslim teachers should, for a stiff wage, propound their sepa- rate creeds. This being arranged, a first class of alpha- bet scholars was recruited from among the children of the bazaar. A top class was formed by a few girls from richer homes who were able to recite parts of the Koran by heart. These prodigies had also learnt by heart what Flora called the dubious tales of the first Persian primer, creating a false impression of reading aloud. The tale Flora quoted as an example of dubiousness concerned a man brought before a judge on the charge of stealing his neighbour's male donkey. The accused countered by showing that the only donkey he owned was indisputably female. The neighbour then remarked that the stolen don- key had not after all been a very male one. Although Flora found it necessary to accept that sexuality supplied the only incident and excitement in the lives of many, if not most, Indian women, she objected to a reading primer that concen- trated on the sexual attributes of donkeys, even if the lessons

were learnt by ear rather than by eye. Flora's influence with the schools was, of course, backed by the strength of her husband's position as Administrator and ex-officio President of the Municipal Council of Kasur. Every Sunday the Council was invited to a social meeting in the court-house garden, a crea- tion of the hands of their President. On these occasions it was Flora's responsibility to see that the refreshments pro- vided did not outrage any of the dietary principles of religion. Melons were abundant at Kasur, so that the ice delivered daily to the Steels from Lahore caused iced melon, a cooling and religiously un- objectionable offering, to be readily available.

At Christmas, more ambi- tiously, the Municipal Council were entertained to a Christmas dinner. Flora was careful that mutton, rather than beef, should be served, the pudding itself being innocent of suet and brandy. Such was the success of the pudding that in future Flora from Lahore caused iced melon, to follow the iced water melon. An outbreak of cholera made a precautionary change to a blander menu seem advisable, but the substitution of jelly and sponge cake was a failure.

As it was necessary to keep a balance in the community, at Kasur there were two female schools of each religious per- suasion. To these schools was given an order for a bed cover to be embroidered, a counter- pane to be presented to the Prince of Wales. The eldest son of the Great Mother across the sea, who was soon to be pro- claimed Empress, had come on a cold weather visit to India,

and his camp was to be set up near Lahore.

No-one will be surprised to learn that Flora, squashed between attempts to pass off the work of dextrous Delhi embroiderers as coming from the schools of Kasur. She had not yet de- veloped her interest in tradi- tional native handicrafts, a subject in which she became expert. With increased know- ledge grew disgust, both at the failure of her compatriots to appreciate the special beauty of the diaphanous embroidery known as *phulkari* work, and at the native exploitation of shoddy imita- tions. At the time of the Prince's visit she still learnt towards Western techniques, but her design, based on the Prince of Wales' feathers, was effective when worked onto Persian satin.

The main problem being to keep the white satin clean from the effluvia, which seemed to Flora to breathe discoloration. To accommodate the Royal Visit, a camp was pitched by what Flora invariably referred to as "Government" without a definite article. This may have been the practice of her hus- band and his colleagues in the ICS, but Flora often used it to give vent to her personal feel- ings. To her the power that ruled her husband's climb up the ladder of promotion fre- quently showed itself to be a boneheaded bureaucracy, at its best laboriously well-meaning, at its worst malevolent. Throughout her husband's service in India, Government also remained, in her eyes a popu- larly wicked fairy, fre- quently blind to the rudimen- tary interests of the Service. Flora considered that official displays of niggardiness did more than anything else to lower the prestige of British rule in India.

The great camps in the days of the Mughals often covered miles of countryside, but always in the centre hung a lantern, proclaiming that here was the Lamp of Justice. Flora thought this to have been symbolism of a higher order than the British flag flown from the middle of such a lesser camp as was set up for the visit of the Prince. On the other hand, in her opinion, the principle of the orderly pitching of this tem- porary city still owed much in its precision to the pattern laid down by the Mughals.

Vegetation to soften the aspect of the sandy plain was supplied by quick-growing bar- ley and clumps of chrysanthemum already in bud. This assistance of nature, slightly reminiscent of the Potemkin villages that attended the pro- gresses of Catherine the Great of Russia, nevertheless pro- vided a pretty background for a grand ball. Here the Prince picked out Mrs Henry Steel, not for her bright cheeks and yellow hair, but because he saw her to be the only woman present who knew how a Scottish reel should really be danced. Queen Victoria had been an enthusiastic promoter of reels, so her son could speak with knowledge gained by footing it at the Balmoral Gilties Ball.

Flora accepted the com- mitment as partly due to an hereditary talent. At seventy-five her father could go through the intricacies of an eightsome with a light foot that would not have caused a jelly to wobble. His daughter thought of him as the Dancing Faun. Her husband seems to have been more mis- anthropic, for his dislike of continual human contacts led him to pitch their tents away from the general lay-out of the camp. Government, unimpressed by this spirit of independence, still sent in a bill of ten rupees a day for lighting and sanitation, neither of which was available to the Steels, who immediately counter-attacked.

In fact the Steels were in a strong position. Flora's cher- ished piano having been lent to the camp and installed in the Prince's drawing-room. It was not entirely loyalty that had pro- moted the loan. Necessity had not yet driven Flora to learn how to tune the instrument her- self, but she knew that the art of the main problem being to keep the white satin clean from the effluvia, which seemed to Flora to breathe discoloration. To accommodate the Royal Visit, a camp was pitched by what Flora invariably referred to as "Government" without a definite article. This may have been the practice of her hus- band and his colleagues in the ICS, but Flora often used it to give vent to her personal feel- ings. To her the power that ruled her husband's climb up the ladder of promotion fre- quently showed itself to be a boneheaded bureaucracy, at its best laboriously well-meaning, at its worst malevolent. Throughout her husband's service in India, Government also remained, in her eyes a popu- larly wicked fairy, fre- quently blind to the rudimen- tary interests of the Service. Flora considered that official displays of niggardiness did more than anything else to lower the prestige of British rule in India.

initiating little of her own account. Both from her own self-portrait and from what is known of her character there is little to support this view. Wherever she happened to find herself, Flora's activities were never circumscribed by conven- tion, though it was only at Kasur that her scope came to include municipal architecture.

Perhaps inflated by a diet of melon and Christmas pudding, the self-importance of Kasur's Municipal Council had led it to the conclusion, endemic in pub- lic bodies, that offices worthy of its deliberations should be built. Mrs Steel was consulted, the Council rightly trusting that she would take the subtlety of rank and caste into considera- tion. Flora drew up a scheme which included a large hall for state occasions, carefully cal- culated to seat the various offi- cials in correct order. Addition- ally, she designed a verandah where visitors could squat with due regard to the gradations of caste. The design was ac- claimed, an arched apse in the hall being particularly appreciated.

Government, in the shape of the Department of Public Works took a different view. Striking out the apse and the verandah, it offered instead a singularly inappropriate design in the form of a Swiss chalet. Flora's friends on the Council stood firm, arguing that her plan would cost far less than the one which the DPW wished to impose. Flora herself made some attempt to stop the scheme, as the arch of the apse would have a sixteen foot span and she had never before drawn such plans. She was over-ruled, but consoled herself that the Taj Mahal at Agra, and the Red Fort at Delhi, must have been built by ancestors of the old architect at Kasur who was to supervise that carrying out of her design.

Almost immediately after its completion Flora's apse, and the building of which it was the pride, were tested by the full force of a natural calamity which both triumphantly with- stood. Kasur was hit by a rain- fall of thirteen inches a year made life precarious should even such a small gift from heaven be withheld. For nine months no rain at all had fallen, both the monsoon and the winter rains having failed. At last, in despair, the Municipal Council came to Flora's Sunday recep- tion with the announcement that prayers to heaven were the only hope of a harvest on earth. It was requested that permission might be granted for twelve Hindu yogis and twelve Mahomedan fakirs to be set naked in the sun, without food or water, for twenty-four hours. Such an appeal to heaven, made from a state of equal serenity, representation, was known to be inalienable.

When faced with a custom that she thought to be unrea- sonably superstitious, Flora usually did her best to deflate the idea by gently joking. On this occasion she suggested that, as the recipe was certain to succeed, it might be well to qualify the request by spec- ifying the amount of rain re- quired. After discussion, this idea was vetoed as a blasphemous attempt to limit God's wisdom. In which case, Flora asked, would it not be better to let God decide whether or not rain should fall?

The Municipal Council went home unconvinced. Throughout the hours of a particularly stew- ing Monday, Flora thought with compassion of the twenty-four holy men, inescapably at prayer under the pitiless sun. Early on Tuesday she was awakened by a drop of water on her nose. It was raining as it might have rained on Noah. Even the stone dome of the courthouse was dripping, while the sun-braked brick of the living quarters ran with water. The bearer pro- claimed that the ducks were drowning, while horses had to be rescued and furniture covered with carpets. At six o'clock a messenger from the city of Kasur arrived, half swimming and carrying in a tin box in his turban a message from the highest native official. It ex- pressed succinctly the general feeling, "Farewell, this is not rain. This is the Flood of God".

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Adapted from Flora Annie Steel by Violet Powell to be published on Monday by Heinemann at £8.50.

Chess

Elo again

Having received the new rating list from the World Chess Federation, I had grimly set myself to the task of underlining the British names when the *News Flash* arrived from Norwich containing an article by the indefatigable General Secretary of the BCF, Paul Buswell, in which he had done all the work for me.

Perhaps a few words of explanation are necessary at this point for those unfamiliar with the processes of rating. Some years ago, almost before writing was invented, the American professor, Arpad Elo, devised a system for rating players that gave them a certain number of points for their achievements in tournament play. Depending upon their success players attained the title of international master or even more grandiose, of international grandmaster. An international master was a player with a rating of 2400 and a grandmaster had 2500.

The Elo rating list used to appear once a year, theoretically at any rate on January 1. The fact that it came on January 1 and that the cut-off date for considering a player's achievement came as early as October the previous year meant that the ratings were often a good year behind the actual performance of the players. Now, however, it has been decided to publish an Elo rating list twice a year, once in January and once in July, and as a result the information about the status of the masters has become really up to date.

In the *News Flash*, an interesting and most informative monthly production of the British Chess Federation, Paul Buswell gives the names of the British players in the Elo rating list and shows to what extent they have improved or deteriorated during the year.

He has also picked out the leading 14 grandmasters under the somewhat revolting heading of "The 2,500 Super Grandmasters". Perhaps I am a little too finicky in this but my mind goes back to a time many years ago when I was playing in an international tournament in Glasgow. There was then a safe opponent, the playing field in the beautiful title of "Super Max".

Leading in the list of super grandmasters is, appropriately enough, the present world champion, Anatoly Karpov, with 2,630 points. He has gone down some 40 points since the last list. His great rival, Viktor Korchnoi, once also of the USSR, but now Swiss, is in second place with 2,650, having one down even more, by 45 points, whereas the Hungarian grandmaster, Lajos Portisch, has gone down a mere five points to figure equal with Korchnoi in the list.

Next come Hubner (West Germany) and Spassky (USSR) both with 2,635, two more in the list, Balashov and Yusupov, and the highly talented young Dutch player, Imman, all with 2,620 points, last year's Soviet champion, Geller, has 2,615 and so too is the former Brazilian grandmaster, Henrique Meck.

Alas, I hear he is now seriously ill in hospital. Then come two Scandinavian grandmasters, Ulf Andersson of Sweden and Bent Larsen (Norway), both with 2,610, followed by the brilliant young Yugoslav, Ljubojevic, 2,605. Finally there is the Soviet grandmaster, Jashov, with 2,600.

It is a distinguished list, but seems a pity we have not got British players in it. The best in the list is Tony Miles with 2,575, 90, John Nunn with 2,575, Jonathan Speelman with

2,535. All three made notable advances in 1980. Miles increased his total by 45, Nunn by 60, and Speelman by 45.

One player who made a marked jump is the boy prodigy, Nick Short, who went up some 80 points to 2,440. Thinking of boy prodigies made me wonder where the wonderful Garry Kasparov figured in the list and on looking him up I discovered that he was wrongly omitted by Paul Buswell since he has 2,625 points. Well, if it is any consolation to Paul for the oversight I must add that on checking through the list I found that Kasparov was the only over-18.

The wonderful energy with which Kasparov plays is well shown in the following game from last year's Olympiad at Malta.

White: G. Kasparov, Black: G. Lisitsin. Q.P. Queen's Indian Defence.
1. P-Q4 N-B3 2. N-K3 P-D3 3. P-B4 P-A3 4. P-K3 B-N2 5. N-Q2 B-N5 6. Q-N3 N-B3 7. N-B3 P-Q5 8. P-Q5 B-N2 9. N-B3 P-Q5 10. N-B3 P-Q5 11. P-Q5 B-N2 12. N-B3 P-Q5 13. P-Q5 B-N2 14. N-B3 P-Q5 15. P-Q5 B-N2 16. N-B3 P-Q5 17. P-Q5 B-N2 18. N-B3 P-Q5 19. P-Q5 B-N2 20. N-B3 P-Q5 21. P-Q5 B-N2 22. N-B3 P-Q5 23. P-Q5 B-N2 24. N-B3 P-Q5 25. P-Q5 B-N2 26. N-B3 P-Q5 27. P-Q5 B-N2 28. N-B3 P-Q5 29. P-Q5 B-N2 30. N-B3 P-Q5 31. P-Q5 B-N2 32. N-B3 P-Q5 33. P-Q5 B-N2 34. N-B3 P-Q5 35. P-Q5 B-N2 36. N-B3 P-Q5 37. P-Q5 B-N2 38. N-B3 P-Q5 39. P-Q5 B-N2 40. N-B3 P-Q5 41. P-Q5 B-N2 42. N-B3 P-Q5 43. P-Q5 B-N2 44. N-B3 P-Q5 45. P-Q5 B-N2 46. N-B3 P-Q5 47. P-Q5 B-N2 48. N-B3 P-Q5 49. P-Q5 B-N2 50. N-B3 P-Q5 51. P-Q5 B-N2 52. N-B3 P-Q5 53. P-Q5 B-N2 54. N-B3 P-Q5 55. P-Q5 B-N2 56. N-B3 P-Q5 57. P-Q5 B-N2 58. N-B3 P-Q5 59. P-Q5 B-N2 60. N-B3 P-Q5 61. P-Q5 B-N2 62. N-B3 P-Q5 63. P-Q5 B-N2 64. N-B3 P-Q5 65. P-Q5 B-N2 66. N-B3 P-Q5 67. P-Q5 B-N2 68. N-B3 P-Q5 69. P-Q5 B-N2 70. N-B3 P-Q5 71. P-Q5 B-N2 72. N-B3 P-Q5 73. P-Q5 B-N2 74. N-B3 P-Q5 75. P-Q5 B-N2 76. N-B3 P-Q5 77. P-Q5 B-N2 78. N-B3 P-Q5 79. P-Q5 B-N2 80. N-B3 P-Q5 81. P-Q5 B-N2 82. N-B3 P-Q5 83. P-Q5 B-N2 84. N-B3 P-Q5 85. P-Q5 B-N2 86. N-B3 P-Q5 87. P-Q5 B-N2 88. N-B3 P-Q5 89. P-Q5 B-N2 90. N-B3 P-Q5 91. P-Q5 B-N2 92. N-B3 P-Q5 93. P-Q5 B-N2 94. N-B3 P-Q5 95. P-Q5 B-N2 96. N-B3 P-Q5 97. P-Q5 B-N2 98. N-B3 P-Q5 99. P-Q5 B-N2 100. N-B3 P-Q5 101. P-Q5 B-N2 102. N-B3 P-Q5 103. P-Q5 B-N2 104. N-B3 P-Q5 105. P-Q5 B-N2 106. N-B3 P-Q5 107. P-Q5 B-N2 108. N-B3 P-Q5 109. P-Q5 B-N2 110. N-B3 P-Q5 111. P-Q5 B-N2 112. N-B3 P-Q5 113. P-Q5 B-N2 114. N-B3 P-Q5 115. P-Q5 B-N2 116. N-B3 P-Q5 117. P-Q5 B-N2 118. N-B3 P-Q5 119. P-Q5 B-N2 120. N-B3 P-Q5 121. P-Q5 B-N2 122. N-B3 P-Q5 123. P-Q5 B-N2 124. N-B3 P-Q5 125. P-Q5 B-N2 126. N-B3 P-Q5 127. P-Q5 B-N2 128. N-B3 P-Q5 129. P-Q5 B-N2 130. N-B3 P-Q5 131. P-Q5 B-N2 132. N-B3 P-Q5 133. P-Q5 B-N2 134. N-B3 P-Q5 135. P-Q5 B-N2 136. N-B3 P-Q5 137. P-Q5 B-N2 138. N-B3 P-Q5 139. P-Q5 B-N2 140. N-B3 P-Q5 141. P-Q5 B-N2 142. N-B3 P-Q5 143. P-Q5 B-N2 144. N-B3 P-Q5 145. P-Q5 B-N2 146. N-B3 P-Q5 147. P-Q5 B-N2 148. N-B3 P-Q5 149. P-Q5 B-N2 150. N-B3 P-Q5 151. P-Q5 B-N2 152. N-B3 P-Q5 153. P-Q5 B-N2 154. N-B3 P-Q5 155. P-Q5 B-N2 156. N-B3 P-Q5 157. P-Q5 B-N2 158. N-B3 P-Q5 159. P-Q5 B-N2 160. N-B3 P-Q5 161. P-Q5 B-N2 162. N-B3 P-Q5 163. P-Q5 B-N2 164. N-B3 P-Q5 165. P-Q5 B-N2 166. N-B3 P-Q5 167. P-Q5 B-N2 168. N-B3 P-Q5 169. P-Q5 B-N2 170. N-B3 P-Q5 171. P-Q5 B-N2 172. N-B3 P-Q5 173. P-Q5 B-N2 174. N-B3 P-Q5 175. P-Q5 B-N2 176. N-B3 P-Q5 177. P-Q5 B-N2 178. N-B3 P-Q5 179. P-Q5 B-N2 180. N-B3 P-Q5 181. P-Q5 B-N2 182. N-B3 P-Q5 183. P-Q5 B-N2 184. N-B3 P-Q5 185. P-Q5 B-N2 186. N-B3 P-Q5 187. P-Q5 B-N2 188. N-B3 P-Q5 189. P-Q5 B-N2 190. N-B3 P-Q5 191. P-Q5 B-N2 192. N-B3 P-Q5 193. P-Q5 B-N2 194. N-B3 P-Q5 195. P-Q5 B-N2 196. N-B3 P-Q5 197. P-Q5 B-N2 198. N-B3 P-Q5 199. P-Q5 B-N2 200. N-B3 P-Q5 201. P-Q5 B-N2 202. N-B3 P-Q5 203. P-Q5 B-N2 204. N-B3 P-Q5 205. P-Q5 B-N2 206. N-B3 P-Q5 207. P-Q5 B-N2 208. N-B3 P-Q5 209. P-Q5 B-N2 210. N-B3 P-Q5 211. P-Q5 B-N2 212. N-B3 P-Q5 213. P-Q5 B-N2 214. N-B3 P-Q5 215. P-Q5 B-N2 216. N-B3 P-Q5 217. P-Q5 B-N2 218. N-B3 P-Q5 219. P-Q5 B-N2 220. N-B3 P-Q5 221. P-Q5 B-N2 222. N-B3 P-Q5 223. P-Q5 B-N2 224. N-B3 P-Q5 225. P-Q5 B-N2 226. N-B3 P-Q5 227. P-Q5 B-N2 228. N-B3 P-Q5 229. P-Q5 B-N2 230. N-B3 P-Q5 231. P-Q5 B-N2 232. N-B3 P-Q5 233. P-Q5 B-N2 234. N-B3 P-Q5 235. P-Q5 B-N2 236. N-B3 P-Q5 237. P-Q5 B-N2 238. N-B3 P-Q5 239. P-Q5 B-N2 240. N-B3 P-Q5 241. P-Q5 B-N2 242. N-B3 P-Q5 243. P-Q5 B-N2 244. N-B3 P-Q5 245. P-Q5 B-N2 246. N-B3 P-Q5 247. P-Q5 B-N2 248. N-B3 P-Q5 249. P-Q5 B-N2 250. N-B3 P-Q5 251. P-Q5 B-N2 252. N-B3 P-Q5 253. P-Q5 B-N2 254. N-B3 P-Q5 255. P-Q5 B-N2 256. N-B3 P-Q5 257. P-Q5 B-N2 258. N-B3 P-Q5 259. P-Q5 B-N2 260. N-B3 P-Q5 261. P-Q5 B-N2 262. N-B3 P-Q5 263. P-Q5 B-N2 264. N-B3 P-Q5 265. P-Q5 B-N2 266. N-B3 P-Q5 267. P-Q5 B-N2 268. N-B3 P-Q5 269. P-Q5 B-N2 270. N-B3 P-Q5 271. P-Q5 B-N2 272. N-B3 P-Q5 273. P-Q5 B-N2 274. N-B3 P-Q5 275. P-Q5 B-N2 276. N-B3 P-Q5 277. P-Q5 B-N2 278. N-B3 P-Q5 279. P-Q5 B-N2 280. N-B3 P-Q5 281. P-Q5 B-N2 282. N-B3 P-Q5 283. P-Q5 B-N2 284. N-B3 P-Q5 285. P-Q5 B-N2 286. N-B3 P-Q5 287. P-Q5 B-N2 288. N-B3 P-Q5 289. P-Q5 B-N2 290. N-B3 P-Q5 291. P-Q5 B-N2 292. N-B3 P-Q5 293. P-Q5 B-N2 294. N-B3 P-Q5 295. P-Q5 B-N2 296. N-B3 P-Q5 297. P-Q5 B-N2 298. N-B3 P-Q5 299. P-Q5 B-N2 300. N-B3 P-Q5 301. P-Q5 B-N2 302. N-B3 P-Q5 303. P-Q5 B-N2 304. N-B3 P-Q5 305. P-Q5 B-N2 306. N-B3 P-Q5 307. P-Q5 B-N2 308. N-B3 P-Q5 309. P-Q5 B-N2 310. N-B3 P-Q5 311. P-Q5 B-N2 312. N-B3 P-Q5 313. P-Q5 B-N2 314. N-B3 P-Q5 315. P-Q5 B-N2 316. N-B3 P-Q5 317. P-Q5 B-N2 318. N-B3 P-Q5 319. P-Q5 B-N2 320. N-B3 P-Q5 321. P-Q5 B-N2 322. N-B3 P-Q5 323. P-Q5 B-N2 324. N-B3 P-Q5 325. P-Q5 B-N2 326. N-B3 P-Q5 327. P-Q5 B-N2 328. N-B3 P-Q5 329. P-Q5 B-N2 330. N-B3 P-Q5 331. P-Q5 B-N2 332. N-B3 P-Q5 333. P-Q5 B-N2 334. N-B3 P-Q5 335. P-Q5 B-N2 336. N-B3 P-Q5 337. P-Q5 B-N2 338. N-B3 P-Q5 339. P-Q5 B-N2 340. N-B3 P-Q5 341. P-Q5 B-N2 342. N-B3 P-Q5 343. P-Q5 B-N2 344. N-B3 P-Q5 345. P-Q5 B-N2 346. N-B3 P-Q5 347. P-Q5 B-N2 348. N-B3 P-Q5 349. P-Q5 B-N2 350. N-B3 P-Q5 351. P-Q5 B-N2 352. N-B3 P-Q5 353. P-Q5 B-N2 354. N-B3 P-Q5 355. P-Q5 B-N2 356. N-B3 P-Q5 357. P-Q5 B-N2 358. N-B3 P-Q5 359. P-Q5 B-N2 360. N-B3 P-Q5 361. P-Q5 B-N2 362. N-B3 P-Q5 363. P-Q5 B-N2 364. N-B3 P-Q5 365. P-Q5 B-N2 366. N-B3 P-Q5 367. P-Q5 B-N2 368. N-B3 P-Q5 369. P-Q5 B-N2 370. N-B3 P-Q5 371. P-Q5 B-N2 372. N-B3 P-Q5 373. P-Q5 B-N2 374. N-B3 P-Q5 375. P-Q5 B-N2 376. N-B3 P-Q5 377. P-Q5 B-N2 378. N-B3 P-Q5 379. P-Q5 B-N2 380. N-B3 P-Q5 381. P-Q5 B-N2 382. N-B3 P-Q5 383. P-Q5 B-N2 384. N-B3 P-Q5 385. P-Q5 B-N2 386. N-B3 P-Q5 387. P-Q5 B-N2 388. N-B3 P-Q5 389. P-Q5 B-N2 390. N-B3 P-Q5 391. P-Q5 B-N2 392. N-B3 P-Q5 393. P-Q5 B-N2 394. N-B3 P-Q5 395. P-Q5 B-N2 396. N-B3 P-Q5 397. P-Q5 B-N2 398. N-B3 P-Q5 399. P-Q5 B-N2 400. N-B3 P-Q5 401. P-Q5 B-N2 402. N-B3 P-Q5 403. P-Q5 B-N2 404. N-B3 P-Q5 405. P-Q5 B-N2 406. N-B3 P-Q5 407. P-Q5 B-N2 408. N-B3 P-Q5 409. P-Q5 B-N2 410. N-B3 P-Q5 411. P-Q5 B-N2 412. N-B3 P-Q5 413. P-Q5 B-N2 414. N-B3 P-Q5 415. P-Q5 B-N2 416. N-B3 P-Q5 417. P-Q5 B-N2 418. N-B3 P-Q5 419. P-Q5 B-N2 420. N-B3 P-Q5 421. P-Q5 B-N2 422. N-B3 P-Q5 423. P-Q5 B-N2 424. N-B3 P-Q5 425. P-Q5 B-N2 426. N-B3 P-Q5 427. P-Q5 B-N2 428. N-B3 P-Q5 429. P-Q5 B-N2 430. N-B3 P-Q5 431. P-Q5 B-N2 432. N-B3 P-Q5 433. P-Q5 B-N2 434. N-B3 P-Q5 435. P-Q5 B-N2 436. N-B3 P-Q5 437. P-Q5 B-N2 438. N-B3 P-Q5 439. P-Q5 B-N2 440. N-B3 P-Q5 441. P-Q5 B-N2 442. N-B3 P-Q5 443. P-Q5 B-N2 444. N-B3 P-Q5 445. P-Q5 B-N2 446. N-B3 P-Q5 447. P-Q5 B-N2 448. N-B3 P-Q5 449. P-Q5 B-N2 450. N-B3 P-Q5 451. P-Q5 B-N2 452. N-B3 P-Q5 453. P-Q5 B-N2 454. N-B3 P-Q5 455. P-Q5 B-N2 456. N-B3 P-Q5 457. P-Q5 B-N2 458. N-B3 P-Q5 459. P-Q5 B-N2 460. N-B3 P-Q5 461. P-Q5 B-N2 462. N-B3 P-Q5 463. P-Q5 B-N2 464. N-B3 P-Q5 465. P-Q5 B-N2 466. N-B3 P-Q5 467. P-Q5 B-N2 468. N-B3 P-Q5 469. P-Q5 B-N2 470. N-B3 P-Q5 471. P-Q5 B-N2 472. N-B3 P-Q5 473. P-Q5 B-N2 474. N-B3 P-Q5 475. P-Q5 B-N2 476. N-B3 P-Q5 477. P-Q5 B-N2 478. N-B3 P-Q5 479. P-Q5 B-N2 480. N-B3 P-Q5 481. P-Q5 B-N2 482. N-B3 P-Q5 483. P-Q5 B-N2 484. N-B3 P-Q5 485. P-Q5 B-N2 486. N-B3 P-Q5 487. P-Q5 B-N2 488. N-B3 P-Q5 489. P-Q5 B-N2 490. N-B3 P-Q5 491. P-Q5 B-N2 492. N-B3 P-Q5 493. P-Q5 B-N2 494. N-B3 P-Q5 495. P-Q5 B-N2 496. N-B3 P-Q5 497. P-Q5 B-N2 498. N-B3 P-Q5 499. P-Q5 B-N2 500. N-B3 P-Q5 501. P-Q5 B-N2 502. N-B3 P-Q5 503. P-Q5 B-N2 504. N-B3 P-Q5 505. P-Q5 B-N2 506. N-B3 P-Q5 507. P-Q5 B-N2 508. N-B3 P-Q5 509. P-Q5 B-N2 510. N-B3 P-Q5 511. P-Q5 B-N2 512. N-B3 P-Q5 513. P-Q5 B-N2 514. N-B3 P-Q5 515. P-Q5 B-N2 516. N-B3 P-Q5 517. P-Q5 B-N2 518. N-B3 P-Q5 519. P-Q5 B-N2 520. N-B3 P-Q5 521. P-Q5 B-N2 522. N-B3 P-Q5 523. P-Q5 B-N2 524. N-B3 P-Q5 525. P-Q5 B-N2 526. N-B3 P-Q5 527. P-Q5 B-N2 528. N-B3 P-Q5 529. P-Q5 B-N2 530. N-B3 P-Q5 531. P-Q5 B-N2 532. N-B3 P-Q5 533. P-Q5 B-N2 534. N-B3 P-Q5 535. P-Q5 B-N2 536. N-B3 P-Q5 537. P-Q5 B-N2 538. N-B3 P-Q5 539. P-Q5 B-N2 540. N-B3 P-Q5 541. P-Q5 B-N2 542. N-B3 P-Q5 543. P-Q5 B-N2 544. N-B3 P-Q5 545. P-Q5 B-N2 546. N-B3 P-Q5 547. P-Q5 B-N2 548. N-B3 P-Q5 549. P-Q5 B-N2 550. N-B3 P-Q5 551. P-Q5 B-N2 552. N-B3 P-Q5 553. P-Q5 B-N2 554. N-B3 P-Q5 555. P-Q5 B-N2 556. N-B3 P-Q5 557. P-Q5 B-N2 558. N-B3 P-Q5 559. P-Q5 B-N2 560. N-B3 P-Q5 561. P-Q5 B-N2 562. N-B3 P-Q5 563. P-Q5 B-N2 564. N-B3 P-Q5 565. P-Q5 B-N2 566. N-B3 P-Q5 567. P-Q5 B-N2 568. N-B3 P-Q5 569. P-Q5 B-N2 570. N-B3 P-Q5 571. P-Q5 B-N2 572. N-B3 P-Q5 573. P-Q5 B-N2 574. N-B3 P-Q5 575. P-Q5 B-N2 576. N-B3 P-Q5 577. P-Q5 B-N2 578. N-B3 P-Q5 579. P-Q5 B-N2 580. N-B3 P-Q5 581. P-Q5 B-N2 582. N-B3 P-Q5 583. P-Q5 B-N2 584. N-B3 P-Q5 585. P-Q5 B-N2 586. N-B3 P-Q5 587. P-Q5 B-N2 588. N-B3 P-Q5 589. P-Q5 B-N2 590. N-B3 P-Q5 591. P-Q5 B-N2 592. N-B3 P-Q5 593. P-Q5 B-N2 594. N-B3 P-Q5 595. P-Q5 B-N2 596. N-B3 P-Q5 597. P-Q5 B-N2 598. N-B3 P-Q5 599. P-Q5 B-N2 600. N-B3 P-Q5 601. P-Q5 B-N2 602. 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David Bonar



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THE GENERAL MAKES PROGRESS

The first week of General Jaruzelski's Government in Poland has been remarkably encouraging. Farmers and students seem satisfied for the moment with what they have won, and the strikes are dying out. There is a fair chance, though obviously no guarantee, that the Prime Minister's appeal for ninety days of calm will be observed. If it is he will have won a short but vital breathing space in which to work on economic and political reforms.

His most urgent task is to persuade his own people and his western creditors that these reforms will be implemented with genuine determination. One of the main reasons for the almost continuous rumbling of strikes and threats of strikes has been the public's belief that the regime would not move forward, and would try to move back, unless pushed firmly and continuously from behind. The regime did its best to confirm this belief by stumbling forward only under pressure. The result was to weaken authority and strengthen the determination of the people to keep pushing.

If General Jaruzelski can show that he knows where he is going, and that he can move forward on his own steam, he will have taken a big step towards stabilizing the country because people may be willing to stand back for a while and give him a chance. His speeches and appointments so far suggest that he sees this, but he still has to carry the unwieldy and in part recalcitrant apparatus of the party with him. And before he can do that he must get the leadership together behind a programme which meets pressures from below without breaking the system apart.

So far this has been shown to be not wholly impossible. The new industrial unions are still turbulent, unpredictable and unsure of their role. Nobody yet knows whether they can or will live their support to economic reforms involving an unavoidable period of austerity. But there is a feeling that they exist at all is wearing off. They are

part of the scenery, and the Government is coming to terms with the wholly unfamiliar task of engaging in genuine negotiations with workers' representatives.

Meanwhile the farmers have not quite won the unionization they sought but they have come fairly near to a last agreement with the authorities. They all they have contributed to a substantial change in government policy towards them. Ever since Mr Gomulka abolished compulsory collectivization after the upheavals of 1956 Poland's private farmers, who own about 75 per cent of the agricultural land, have been made to feel little more than tolerated survivors who one day would have to give way to the march of socialism. Technically they were free, but they remained at the mercy of government agencies in many respects, especially for supplies of equipment and fertilizers and for marketing the bulk of their produce. Mr Giersek, who took over in 1970, talked of the importance of agriculture but too much of his investment went into the small and generally inefficient state sector, which he tried to expand.

The present regime seems ready to accept that Poland's only hope of alleviating its food problems lies with the private farmers. The new programme is remarkably far-reaching for a communist state. It involves giving the farmers more security, more investment and permission to expand their holdings. Perhaps these concessions were made easier by the Soviet Union's recent decision to give more encouragement to the cultivation of private plots.

Concessions to Polish students follow the same pattern, granting not all their demands but enough to win peace for a while. On paper, at any rate, it looks as if students are now getting a new independent association, more university autonomy, free choice of languages (which tends to mean dropping Russian in favour of a western language), no compulsory manual work, no police on university grounds, more representation, and revised

history books (which ought to mean restoring those large chunks of Polish history which make the Russians uncomfortable). These are important changes.

In the end nothing will be more important than the economy. Political reform is probably a prerequisite of economic reform but it is also dependent on it. If the economy is in a state of collapse, as it is in a sense it has already failed, if Poland were a company it would long since have been declared bankrupt. Its hard currency debt is approaching \$25,000m and its current account deficit is estimated at around \$35,000m. It cannot pay its debts and will be unable to do so for some time. Only the self-interested mercy of the Soviet Union and western governments can help it. The Soviet Union is doing its utmost, and yesterday announced a major postponement of debts presumably calculating that the costs of physical intervention would be higher. Western banks, partly backed by governments, have been pouring money into Poland for the past ten years and are becoming understandably reluctant to continue. Western governments are now deep in consultations over what to do.

The solution lies mainly with the Poles themselves. The outside powers of East and West both have an interest in preserving the stability of Poland, but not at any price. For the Russians the price would be too high if it involved dismantling the present political system altogether. For the West it would be too high if it involved supporting the sort of harsh dictatorship which might follow another round of turmoil. Somewhere in between there has to be found a programme of reform sufficiently limited to reassure the Russians that their sphere of influence is safe but sufficiently extensive to reassure western leaders that there is some chance of getting their money back from a less turbulent country with a better run economy.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, must take much of the credit for the spirited campaign being waged in all the higher criminal courts to reduce delays. Judges in criminal cases are sitting longer hours, and court officials have greatly increased their own efficiency. Barristers and solicitors are being exhorted to make their contribution to the enhanced productivity of the courts. There is a substantial programme—not greatly affected by financial cuts—for the building of new courts.

The result is positive, but much remains to be done. The Criminal Bar Association has made a number of sensible and workable suggestions aimed at reducing the length of trials, and hence reducing delays. The recent Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure has made proposals to the same end. One of the reasons for the excessive length of some trials is that many defendants, as is their right, contest the police's evidence about what they said under interrogation. This can happen only because there is no means under the existing procedure of accurately recording what is actually said by the suspect being questioned. Tape recording would fulfil that function. There would be fewer contested cases, and shorter trials. If only five per cent of defendants who now pleaded innocence would, with tape recording, admit guilt, delays in the criminal courts would be reduced drastically and quickly.

Class base and Marxism

From Mr J. A. Smith
Sir, Mr Ken Gill, writing in your columns (February 18), asserts that the decision taken at Labour's special conference has "recognized the class base of the party", and considers this to be a positive step.

This analysis reflects a Marxist philosophy of class conflict. I feel Mr Gill fails to grasp the point that many supporters of the Labour Party reject the simple class dichotomy which this analysis would suggest, and reject also the assumption of a necessary class struggle which must follow from the adoption of such a philosophy. A pluralist society is impossible within the parameters which Mr Gill would appear from his article to envisage.

Far from restoring Labour as a narrow class party, surely the objective of the party (if it is to accept the concept of a pluralist democracy) should be to broaden its class base, and bridge the class gap. Mr Gill's article, with its scathing description of Conservative trade unions, and its preoccupation with a simple employer-employee conflict, suggests a move in the opposite direction.

The sad fact is that, with the departure from Labour's ranks of the social democrats, the polarization of the left becomes more likely, and the capitalism with a human face, which Mr Gill treats with apparent contempt, gives way to socialism with an inhuman face as the most likely objective of the Labour Party in the future. I know which of the two I prefer.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. SMITH,
University of Dundee,
Airlie Hall,
Airlie Hall, Dundee.

Leading counsel

From Mr Humphrey Berkeley
Sir, The article by Mr Peter Jay in your issue of February 19 (p. 1) (Sir Harold Wilson, and its caption, which accompanied it are misleading).

From 1953 until 1976 Mr Harold Wilson (as he then was) was both Prime Minister and as Leader of the Opposition, was leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

In 1976 Mr Callaghan, Mr Jay's father-in-law, was elected leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and he was no longer Prime Minister.

By a change of rule at the Labour Party conference of October, 1979, Mr Callaghan became the first leader of the Labour Party, but by then he was no longer Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHREY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard,
Chiswick, W4.

Interpreting the economic trends

From Mr D. C. Damant
Sir, Professor Godley (February 19) expects our economy to be devastated by present Government policies and believes the survival of our industrial structure to depend on the urgency. Why then are the shares in British industry, as measured by the *Financial Times* Actuaries Industrial Group (which does not include shares in financial and other companies) 30 per cent higher than in November, 1979—in fact virtually at the highest levels ever?

In view of the overwhelming evidence for the efficiency of markets in anticipating trends in profits, something must be very right.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. DAMANT,
1 Royal Exchange Avenue, EC3.

From Professor F. A. Hayek, FBA
Sir, I take it you would not head an article: "Withdrawal symptoms increasing despite depressing reduction of drug intake". Why, then, do you allow your front page to be opened (February 14) by the headline: "Recession deepening despite sharp fall in inflation rate", which makes quite as much sense?

Yours faithfully,
F. A. HAYEK,
Urchestraße 27,
D-7800 Freiburg (Breisgau).

Civil saboteurs?

From the Secretary General of the Council of Civil Service Unions

Sir, May I quote from a pamphlet which I produced in 1969: "Despite the fact that most people concede the right of men to withdraw their labour what they can do separately as individuals—strike action—unleashes the most vicious and malicious criticism. While the right to strike in pure theory is unquestionably conceded, in practice strike action, when it takes place, is the subject of criticism under one or another of the following headings: 'contrary to the workers' best interests, in opposition to the national interest, stupidly aggressive, the work of subversives, inconsistent with our democratic way of life, harmful to the innocent public, bloody minded materialism, unfairly obliging the employer to negotiate under duress and totally unnecessary'."

To this I must add, after the editorial of February 19, your monstrous charge of "conspiracy to sabotage".

Civil Service unions believe in a non-political Civil Service and are very conscious of the need for "order, effectiveness and reliability in public administration". Conflict has, and should be, avoided in the Civil Service and to a large extent this has been achieved in the past by (a) sensible collective bargaining procedures, (b) an orderly system of promotion and negotiation and (c) independent arbitration.

The fact is that we do not have realistic bargaining on major issues because they are denied by the employer. The pay system has been suspended by the employer and resorted to arbitration has been refused by the employer. We have, therefore, no alternative but industrial action and there is no point in going into industrial action in a spirit of half-mourning.

Your hostile editorial ends up with the fine assertion that the servants "ought to be treated fairly".

Yours faithfully,
W. L. KENDALL,
19 Rochester Row, SW1.

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HUMPHREY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard,
Chiswick, W4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Decision on Canada's constitution

From Mr Lawrence Wilson

Sir, How can anyone plausibly hold the theory that Westminster is constitutionally obliged to pass any amendment to the British North America Act which the Canadian federal Government and/or Parliament may ask for?

Under a real discretion were being left to Westminster, there could have been no point in leaving the formal power there: the formal power could have been given to the federal Government and/or Parliament. It is just because the Canadians did not want this, and could not agree on any other formula in 1931 (when the Statute of Westminster was passed) or subsequently that the power was left at Westminster.

So why the talk of embarrassment to the United Kingdom Government? Provided they stay neutral, and keep the whip off, any embarrassment will be Mr Trudeau's alone. If he dislikes the decision of his Westminster Parliament he can do one of three things, just as if he had an adverse vote of his constituents: he can resign, or go to the country on the issue.

Yours faithfully,
L. WILSON,
The Manor,
Grendon Underwood,
Aylesbury,
February 13.

From Mr Benjamin Rogers

Sir, The Parliament of Canada will soon adopt a resolution requesting the British Parliament to amend the British North America Act in such a way as to paralyse the Canadian Constitution. It is entirely due to lack of agreement among the federal and provincial governments in Canada that an unconstitutional vestige of a colonial tie was not dissolved long ago. The controversy that has arisen in Canada over the decision of the federal Government to proceed without the approval of all or even a majority of the provinces is having unfortunate side effects on Canada's relations with Britain.

While applauding the federal Government's objective in this matter, I regret the childish tone of the statements in which it demands that the British Parliament do this and so. It is the activity in London of provincial politicians who have been inviting British politicians to reject a request which will be made to them by the two Houses of the Parliament of Canada.

Though I recognize ample fault on the Canadian side, I must say that I am outraged by the view of a British parliamentary committee that 50 years after the Statute of Westminster, the British Parliament should exercise political judgment in relation to a request of the Parliament of Canada for action on a matter of purely Canadian concern.

Turning point

From Sir Ronald Millar

Sir, Disraeli was right. "Never complain and never explain". Nevertheless, although I hesitate to trespass on your space, there are exceptions.

Last Saturday (February 14) in his article, "Did Mr Pym's message go astray?", your Political Editor, Fred Emery, chose to draw particular attention to a sentence in the Prime Minister's conference speech of last October which has subsequently been widely quoted and of which I was the godfather. Referring to U-turns, Mrs Thatcher said: "You turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning."

For the past six months I writes Mr Emery's non-for-turning line has hogged the headlines and the screens. It has given the impression of obduracy, dogmatism and hard-heartedness. It has allowed the caricature of Tory policies to become virtually the accepted fact of current difficulties is the only useful one, swimming!

As long as there are school fields to run about on, plenty of active, sporty fun could be enjoyed without making falling future rolls the opportunity they ought to be for improving the pupil-teacher ratio instead of impoverishing the whole system.

Yours etc,
M. DAVIES,
The Old Vicarage,
Whitchurch, Shropshire,
February 13.

Games reservations

From Mr M. Davies

Sir, Could it not be the time now to slaughter the preposterously overrated sacred cow of "school games", or at least to make it really pull its horns in, in view of the present educational state of affairs? The only physical activity that has been suffering from current difficulties is the only useful one, swimming!

As long as there are school fields to run about on, plenty of active, sporty fun could be enjoyed without making falling future rolls the opportunity they ought to be for improving the pupil-teacher ratio instead of impoverishing the whole system.

Yours etc,
M. DAVIES,
The Old Vicarage,
Whitchurch, Shropshire,
February 13.

From Mr M. D. Shaffner

Sir, Sunday rugby football, Sunday cricket and now Sunday football. How does the purchase of a team sheet, a score card or a programme at a greatly inflated price as a condition precedent to admission differ from admission by the payment of money or by tickets sold for money which is unlawful?

Should we not either enforce the Sunday Observance Act or repeal it?

Yours faithfully,
M. D. SHAFFNER,
West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police, Office of the Prosecuting Solicitor, Felf House, George Street, Wakefield, Yorkshire, February 12.

Arts sponsorship

From Mr R. C. Pulford

Sir, Interested readers of today's *Evening News* (February 19) from the chairmen of the Poetry Society and other signatories can be assured that the level of commercial sponsorship raised by the society had no bearing whatever on the Arts Council's decision about the level of its own financial support for the society for the coming year.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
R. C. PULFORD, Deputy Secretary-General, Arts Council of Great Britain, 105 Piccadilly, W1, February 19.

Criminal procedure moves

From Mr A. T. A. Edwards

Sir, Mr Inge (February 9) misunderstands the point Sir David Napley (January 28) is making. Expert defence advocates regularly submit that there is insufficient evidence to send a case for trial. They are not often successful. It is gratifying when they are eventually proved to have been correct, but it is at a great cost in unnecessary public expenditure and additional delay in the Crown Courts. The matter need not await the discussion of a Royal Commission report. The Divisional Court should now give directions.

Yours faithfully,
A. T. A. EDWARDS,
29 Mile End Road, E1.

Music publishers' copyright

From Mrs Joan Bulmer-Thomson

Sir, The photocopying of music in schools is an important question which cannot be left as it has been by the Oakham School case (report, February 18) where, owing to the speed of the photocopying, the issues were never fully argued. An authoritative decision is needed on two points: 1. Under the Copyright Act, 1956, copyright in a musical work ceases 50 years after the death of the author. It is the contention of publishers that a new copyright is created by a new edition of the work. I submit that the mere alteration of a few phrases, say, in "Good King Wenceslas" does not create a new copyright. The changes must be substantial and creative (the Act refers to "an arrangement or transcription of the work").

2. Under the statute "the Acts restricted by copyright" include "performing the work in public", but in general performances of musical works in schools are private performances to which the public, other than parents, are not admitted. (I make no comment on the Oakham School case as I do not know the facts.) They would not appear to be restricted by the Act.

Composers, editors and publishers of musical works are entitled to a fair remuneration for their labours, but the present cost of published music is prohibitive and the interests of composers, editors and publishers will better be served by fostering music in the schools rather than killing it by exorbitant charges.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN BULMER-THOMSON,
12 Edwards Square, W8,
February 18.

Was that a record?

From Dr Christopher T. Watts

Sir, I feel I cannot allow the letter from the Registrar of Companies (February 16) to pass without commenting on two inaccuracies contained in it.

Microfilm copies do not already exist of all documents held by his department. When the files were initially filmed, only those of "live" companies were copied, and even then certain of the older annual returns were omitted. The filming did not cover the files of companies whose paper files were destroyed, though many of these are still held by the Companies Registration Office prior to eventual transfer to the Public Record Office. Thus the microfilms are far from being a complete copy of all documents over 10 years old.

I must also take exception to his implication that the paper files are certainly not consulted after 10 years. I am sure that I am not alone amongst historians in regularly consulting the older records of both the dissolved companies, the Companies Registration Office, though perhaps the registrar is seeking to imply that the recent swingeing increase in fees for consulting a file (from 5p to 11p) has effectively put a stop to historians using these files.

I think that the Registrar of Companies may well have overlooked the historical importance and interest of the files that he holds. I trust that before proceeding to destroy any paper files, many years old he assures himself that microfilm copies of them really do exist, as otherwise he will destroy for ever a valuable historical source.

Yours faithfully,
C. T. WATTS,
27 Mansfield Court,
Manor Road,
Ashford, "Middlesex",
February 16.

Rights to citizenship

From Mrs Ann Dummert

Sir, Mr Roger Sims (February 7) complains that the Nationality Bill has been widely misrepresented "for reasons one can only guess at" and also simply misunderstood. It is certainly true that many misbeliefs are held about the Bill, but for this the Government has surely only itself to blame.

The measure is ridiculously complicated (at the second reading debate even some MPs were uncertain about how many categories of British nationality they were dealing with) and the drafting is often unnecessarily obscure.

If there is misunderstanding, and even misrepresentation, it does not follow that all criticism of the Bill is unfounded. Had it been based on a comprehensible central idea of the meaning of British nationality of the kind suggested by the Catholic bishops, its provisions would have been simpler to frame and to understand. But there is confusion at the heart of this Bill about just what it is supposed to be doing.

Of course, as a result, many people are worried about what their status is going to mean to them in practical terms. Nationality is supposed to be a status conferring clear rights and obligations on its holders and attached to an identifiable territory, and even critics who have got some of the details wrong see more clearly than the Government seems to do that the Bill does not offer any of us such a status.

Yours sincerely,
ANN DUMMERT,
64 Park Town, Oxford,
February 10.

Love's 1-hour lost

From Sir Horace Cutler

Sir, What can be done with the Post Office?

On February 13 I sent St Valentine's cards to my three daughters at home addresses. All were posted before 11 am and all bore the special St Valentine's stamp at the first-class rate.

One arrived on the day itself: one on Tuesday the seventeenth; and one has not turned up at all as yet.

Quite apart from the lack of basic efficiency the sale of special stamps in these circumstances amounts to fraud: if ever there was a case for the Trade Descriptions Act this is surely it.

Yours faithfully,
HORACE CUTLER,
The County Hall, SE1,
February 19.

REDUCTION IN THE LAW'S DELAYS

It is good news that the backlog of cases waiting to be heard by the Queen's Bench Divisional court has now been reduced to the point at which there is a possibility that the court will find itself with not enough work to fill up its day. This has been achieved by a combination of harder work—judges sitting longer hours—and by changing the rules to allow that court to make up of only two judges, for some purposes even one, instead of the traditional bench of three. This has made it possible for more courts to sit simultaneously.

Any reduction in the law's delay is a source of satisfaction. It must be remembered that a Divisional Court is mainly a court of appeal on points of law arising from magistrates' courts. It does not often, except in exercising its jurisdiction in habeas corpus applications, act as a court of first instance.

The latest injustices caused by delay are to defendants who are awaiting trial in custody, most of them are eventually found guilty or plead guilty, and at the time they have spent in custody on remand is taken into consideration in the sentence. Now, however, are found not guilty, and although a proportion of those acquitted can consider themselves lucky to have benefited from a procedural advance or a technical rule in their favour, there are many thousands of defendants every year who

are innocent of the crime with which they have been accused, yet have spent many weeks, or months, in prison before being released.

For many years, the delay in cases coming to trial of defendants being held in custody on remand has been a stain on the system of English criminal justice (though not on the Scottish system, which has a machinery to ensure that defendants are either brought to trial, or released, once they have been 110 days in custody). There is now some reason for optimism. The last few months have seen a considerable improvement in the turnover of criminal cases involving defendants awaiting trial in custody.

This time last year, in the London crown courts (where the problem has been the most acute), there was a delay of more than 70 weeks between the commitment for trial of a defendant in custody, and the end of the trial. The waiting time for all defendants—including those out on bail—in the crown courts was nearly nine months. The latest figures show that the average time between commitment and trial for those in custody is approximately 15 weeks, and the average for all defendants is about seven months. In the middle of last year there was a backlog of 9,000 cases in the London crown courts. That is now 8,000 and falling. The Old Bailey has shown particularly marked improvement.

How can we meet this situation? The sources open to us for generating leisure, sport, entertainment and the like are limited. Our people must, I suggest, be helped to provide for themselves in their increased leisure. Some are fortunate enough to have an inner strength which will enable them to meet the changed situation and to find new interests.

Others are less fortunate and must be helped to find ways of filling these empty hours. Perhaps open schools on the lines of our more highly developed television system, both of these and many others could encourage an appreciation of leisure beyond just boredom waiting for "Match of the Day".

To meet the situation, which will soon be grave, is not beyond us if we face it and plan for it. The cost, of course, will not be negligible, but let us measure this against the huge sum that society has at present to pay to keep these people in an idleness they bitterly resent.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP ROGERS,
"Church Close",
East Sussex.

Hints for party-formers

From Lord Clifford of Chudleigh

Sir, As one who was in at the beginning, albeit only on the fringe, of the formation of the Democratic Labour Party in Australia, may I be permitted to comment on Eric Heffer's article (February 9)?

The real cause of the split—1953-54—was the leader of the Australian Labour Party, Dr Ewart. At the time the Korean War was on, the Russian-Chinese alliance was still firm and the danger to Australia's

evolution in employment

From Mr Sid Cumber

I suggest that Mr Sid Cumber (February 7) is right. I am confident that Mrs Thatcher's policies are correct and that the economic position of our country will be restored and with it the sense of purpose and employment which we, in our opinion, something which we, indeed all developed countries, never be able to maintain and government of whatever party will be able to cure this ill. The solution should be accepted and a new and proper plans made geared to meet the situation. It is a change in their way of life, and unemployment with its despair and loss of self-respect, something we cannot accept. The majority of our people want to work; they want to help support the economy; they want to earn not have to rely on the state. The answer seems to be working a shorter week; perhaps at once but in the not too distant future. Let us face it, remembering that the five-day week has improved it and that Mr Heath's little reduction in industrial output here the trade unions' reaction in meeting the problem, at the same time maintaining productivity, would be of major importance.

There is, however, another problem to be faced. Until recently, I the privilege of being chairman of the greatest difficulties we had was the inability, particularly against men, to fill in the leisure time which had followed early retirement. Most of it difficult; it cannot face up to it and their deterioration.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 488.4 down 5.8
FT Glts 69.17 down 0.24

Sterling
\$2.3100 up 245 pts
Index 102.5 up 0.6

Dollar
Index 98.5 down 1.6
DM2.1050 down 325 pts

Gold
\$507.50 up \$5

Money
3 mth sterling 13-12 1/2
3 mth Euro \$ 16 1/2-16 3/4
6 mth Euro \$ 16 1/2-16 3/4

BA chief ejects EEC advertising

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, former European Commissioner and former chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority, yesterday set the United Kingdom commercial advertising industry firmly against EEC proposals for statutory controls on advertising.

Lord Thomson, now chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Commission, said that the aim of the Commission was to give a European Community a man face, but the main consequence was to give the Community a bad name.

Addressing a television and radio conference in Monte Carlo, he said: "There is a real danger that the draft directive misleading advertising and other similar proposals of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the number field may slow down the development of consumer protection."

He said the Community was not to be dissuaded by its arguments in seeking to ensure that advertisements from "eastland's icy mountains to the golden sands conform to the same framework of control."

The EEC proposals for statutory advertising controls have been opposed by the British Government.

Reagan choice
President Reagan has chosen Mr. S. R. Shad, 57-year-old chairman of E. F. Hutton, to be chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The decision will be announced in about 10 days.

Enterprise zones
The Government has invited the Bank of Scotland and City of Glasgow to prepare plans for enterprise zones in their districts. Five councils in England and Wales are considering similar invitations, and a further five are expected to follow.

ecca TV plant sold
Racal Electronics has sold its television factory in Llandudno, Shropshire, to Tung, of Taiwan, for £1.1m. The plant will be run by Tung and will bring in new television models and technology.

elecom standards
The British Standards Institution is to prepare new telecommunications standards to assist in the approval of apparatus after the Telecommunications Bill comes into force.

Record German deficit
West Germany posted a \$4.200m (£865m) trade deficit with the United States in 1980, up from \$2.500m (£500m) in 1979. West Germany's 1980 current account deficit was a record DM28,100m (\$7,821m).

Wall Street higher
The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 950.0, up 27.3, on Wall Street yesterday. The SDR exchange rate was 239.98 while the E-SDR was 536.72.

British Steel and GKN announce first 'Phoenix' joint venture company

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

The formation of the first "Phoenix" joint venture company in the steel industry, between the former British Steel Corporation and GKN, was announced yesterday.

The new company, embracing the steel billet, bars and wire rod facilities of the two organisations, will have a turnover of about £200m and will employ nearly 5,000. Its formation brings to an end nearly two years of often desultory negotiations, which have speeded up over the past six months because of the deepening steel industry crisis.

On the same day the new joint venture was formed, the EEC Commission announced it intends to enforce restrictions on state aid to the steel industry. The Commission has been empowered to monitor such subsidies to be sure they are being used to finance plant modernization and not to cover operating losses, and it now intends to tighten the application of Community discipline to which all public aid to steel companies has been submitted for the past year.

The establishment of the new joint venture company fulfils the Government's wish to rationalize areas of overlap between the public and private sectors and sets the pattern for further joint ventures in the steel industry.

The new company, Allied Steel and Wire, will be independent under the Companies Act. Although the Government's aspiration to secure private sector dominance has not been met, since each partner will have a 50 per cent stake, the direction of the company will be steered by Mr Basil Woods of GKN.

Mr Woods will be contributing the bulk of the assets to the new company, including the Tremorfa steel works at Cardiff, its associated bar and section mills and the Castle Rod mill also at Cardiff. British Steel's number two rod mill at Scunthorpe will also be included, and existing steel reinforcement companies of both organisations will be brought under the new company. Over the past two years, GKN has trimmed its labour force at Cardiff by about 2,000, and the corporation has announced closures at Scunthorpe with the loss of 2,750 jobs as part of its "survival plan".

The new company will have a total wire rod capacity of about 750,000 tonnes and 350,000 tonnes annual capacity for production of bars and sections.

Yesterday the Department of Trade announced that Mr John Biffen, the Trade Secretary, had approved the deal without the need for a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Industry Minister, who with Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, has been pressing for the two

organisations to conclude the discussions and who next week will be announcing plans for a reconstruction of British Steel's capital and the injection of further government funds, welcomed the formation of the company yesterday.

Mr Tebbit said the new company, represented an important contribution to the restructuring of the United Kingdom steel industry which was essential if the industry was to compete effectively in world markets. He hoped it would promote discussions for the formation of a similar joint venture company in the engineering sector.

The formation of Allied Steel and Wire and similar joint venture companies, is provided for under the terms of the 1975 Iron and Steel Act, which companies have additional political attractions since they will have no call on government funds or guarantees and will have to raise finance in the private market.

Net assets to be employed by the company, including working capital, will be about £130m. In return for assets contributed, each of the partners will receive 50 per cent of the ordinary share capital. Over the first three years, the company's cash requirements are estimated at between £25m and £50m.

The board of the new company will have eight members.

Reagan threat of restrictions on Japanese cars to ease US crisis

From Frank Vogl, US Economics Correspondent, Washington, Feb 20

The Reagan administration is about to place great pressure on the Japanese Government to restrict car exports to the United States. The Japanese may be threatened with tight import quotas unless they move swiftly on their own to limit exports.

Slowing imports is one element in a car industry revitalization programme that has been given top priority in the White House. The degree of curbs in the car industry was illustrated yesterday when Ford Motor Company's announcement of a \$1,540m (£684m) record loss last year.

Mr Drew Lewis, the secretary

of transportation, said today that US car manufacturers may have to cut prices and redirect investment more towards domestic plants and away from overseas factories.

Such decisions by the car makers could well be rewarded by limitations on imports, which Mr Lewis said he would be prepared to recommend.

Mr Lewis said that the United Auto Workers' union would have to make concessions. New wage negotiations are likely in Detroit where the UAW will face intense pressure to accept wage cuts.

The transportation secretary said that the Government would seek to assist the car industry by reviewing the thousands of government regulations which

directly concern car manufacturing. Compliance times for many regulatory orders are likely to be extended.

Mr William Brock, the cabinet secretary in charge of trade, said that actions to strengthen the domestic car industry had to be taken soon. Mounting pressures from Congress made it necessary to act "within weeks, rather than months" on imports.

American Motors yesterday reported record losses for 1980 of \$197.5m (£85.8m) against a profit of \$70.6m in the previous year.

The group recently sought refuge by joining in a close partnership arrangement with Renault of France.

Laporte to cut 500 more jobs

By Our Industrial Staff

Laporte Industries is to cut 500 jobs at its Stallingborough plant on Humberside where 330 redundancies were announced a year ago.

The company blamed the move on falling United Kingdom demand and the much reduced profitability of exports resulting from the strength of sterling. Laporte shares fell 6p to 82p on yesterday's announcement.

Stallingborough employs 1,220 out of Laporte's total workforce throughout the United Kingdom. The redundancies are in the high energy consuming sulphate process plant producing titanium dioxide which is used as a filler for paint and paper.

A company spokesman said yesterday that around half of output which was exported had been hit by the value of the pound.

Laporte intends to expand output of titanium dioxide by using the more efficient chloride process at Stallingborough. Special depreciation and redundancy payments will cost £10m, including the redundancies announced earlier.

Elsewhere in the textile industry, British Van Heusen, part of the Carrington Viyella group, announced that it is to close its shirt factory at Taunton, with the loss of 190 jobs.

Liquidation move at Norton Warburg

By Philip Robinson

Norton Warburg Group, the investment advisers and financial fund managers, which started eight years ago giving advice to high-earning pop stars and handles a portfolio of funds, is to put the holding company and three of its subsidiaries into voluntary liquidation.

A financial appraisal of the group is being carried out by accountants Cork Gully and Robson Rhodes to be presented to a shareholders' meeting on March 10 at which directors will seek approval to wind up the four companies. A creditors' meeting will follow.

The City of London Fraud Squad confirmed yesterday that it had received a complaint at Wood Street police station from a member of the public which related to Norton Warburg. The Department of Trade said it had been made aware of the company's difficulties.

Mr Andrew Warburg, chairman of NWG, refused to say yesterday what led up to the directors' decision to ask approval for voluntary liquidation.

He said: "That will have to wait the meeting of creditors. Those companies for which we are not seeking liquidation will either be run down, sold or liquidated."

He refused to name creditors of the companies, but it is understood the majority will be the 300 to 400 private individuals

who had money under portfolio management with the group.

Those companies seeking liquidation are Norton Warburg Group, Norton Warburg Holdings, Norton Warburg Limited and Norton Warburg Investment Management, which was run by Mr Roddy Agg-Manning who was with Antony Gibbs Financial Services from 1972 to 1977 and joined Norton Warburg in 1979.

Until last summer Norton Warburg had two subsidiaries licensed to deal but after a reorganisation one changed its name to NW Investment Management and its licence was renewed by the Department of Trade on January 30 this year.

Meanwhile Norton Warburg Investments Ltd an independent and unquoted venture capital company which shares the Cannon Street office of Norton Warburg, is to be sold.

The NW directors of Norton Warburg Investments Ltd resigned last week. The shareholders and creditors meeting of NWG will be held at 186 City Road, London EC1.

There is no connection between NWG and the leading City merchant bank, S. G. Warburg.

Debts provision curbs Lloyds profit

By Roman Eisenstein, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank, the first of the big clearing banks to announce its 1980 figures, yesterday reported that its provision for bad debts and loans made to British customers had risen more than tenfold to £41m in one year. But thanks to the contribution of the international subsidiaries total profits before tax are up by a modest £13.3m to £283.9m.

The dividend for the year has been raised by 20 per cent. Asked whether this would conflict with the 8 1/2 per cent pay rise being offered to staff in the present round of wage negotiations, Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, implied that the outlook for 1981 was not very bright and that "the dividend looks backwards while pay looks forward."

He said that over the last 10 years staff wages had generally "more than kept up with inflation, while dividends, because of past restrictions, have still some catching up to do."

Sir Jeremy said that "sharp increases in costs and in provision for bad and doubtful debts have marked the turnaround of the bank profit cycle in Britain."

Profitability had been held up last year because of high interest rates in Britain and good profits overseas from Lloyds Bank International.

For the group as a whole bad debts, including those from overseas, rose sixfold from £11.2m to £67.8m. This shows that bad debts incurred abroad had also been rising fast. For the year they rose from £7.5m to £26.6m. But this also shows some way in explaining the better results overseas.

Lloyds Bank International has, in recent months embarked on a much more aggressive lending policy than in the past. LBI has shifted some of its lending from the top customers - such as governments, to corporate lending. This explains why its profits for its financial year to the end of September rose from £22.8m in the first half to £42m in the second half.

An important feature of the bad debt provisions on United Kingdom activities is that of the £41.2m total £37.7m has been laid aside as specific provisions for known cases. Only £3.5m is for general provision for unforeseen events.

Profits adjusted for inflation on a current cost accounting basis are slightly down from £169.6m to £164.5m. Sir Jeremy says that profits on a conventional accounting basis have done no more than maintain our capital base in real terms. "Indeed, our current cost profits, which make adjustments for inflation show a small fall for the year."

Sir Jeremy vigorously attacked recent talk of a "windfall profits" tax. "If it was not desirable last year it is not justified now. The arguments which the Chancellor and Mr Nigel Lawson used then against a tax are still valid and nobody has advanced any arguments to justify one."

He also attacked talk of a disguised tax through the shift of export credits to the banks' lending books by saying "we are opposed to an overt tax and we are even more opposed to covert tax."

Sir Jeremy confirmed that the banks had given their comments to the Bank of England on proposals for monetary base control. But "it is not for the rabbits to tell the gamblers how to run the hunt", he added.

British Aerospace share deals fly fast

By Rosemary Unsworth

First dealings in British Aerospace shares 'got off to a flying start' yesterday.

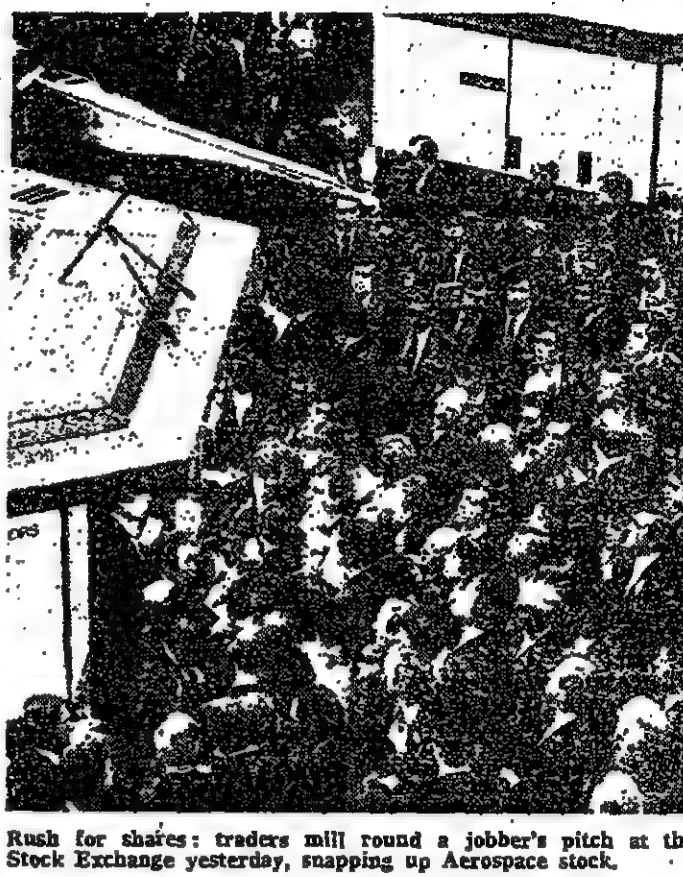
The Stock Exchange opened 10 minutes early to achieve an orderly market and to prevent traders from being stampeded in the rush, and the price quickly reached 175p, a 25p premium on the offer price which was higher than had been expected.

Queues had formed at the stockjobbers' pitches. Wedd Durlacher, one of the leading market-makers, sported a five-foot model of Concorde, bright yellow wind socks and a flying suit hanging inside its dealing box on the Stock Exchange floor.

By 9.30 am more than 2,000 people were milling on the floor and officials were holding back the lines of stockjobbers, in some places 10 deep, to allow the jobbers to hold on to their boxes.

The price at first went to 171p, as investors tried to top up their holdings. Another gain put the price at 175p by 9.45 am, but as business in the rest of the market got going, the Aerospace shares came back to 172p at the end of trading session during which it was estimated that 70 million shares in the company had passed through the market.

The issue was three-and-a-half times over-subscribed. With the Government giving priority to



Rush for shares: traders mill round a jobber's pitch at the Stock Exchange yesterday, snapping up Aerospace stock.

TSB pay offer rejected

By David Felton

Negotiators representing 17,500 clerical staff in the Trustee Savings Banks yesterday rejected an 8 1/2 per cent offer of a pay rise. The leaders will now sound out their members' willingness to take industrial action.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU), which represents nearly all staff in the TSBs, and has also rejected an 8 1/2 per cent offer from the main clearing banks, last night claimed that there had been collusion between banking employers.

Mr Lef Mills, BIFU general secretary, said: "It is monstrous that an industry should coordinate their attitude to pay claims in this way."

He suggested that three Scottish banks, which have yet to make an offer to the union, were also being influenced by events in England.

Mr Mills said that because of the links between the Scottish banks and the English clearers, the union was expecting a similar single figure offer to its 13,500 members in Scotland.

Mr Mills said the basis of the negotiations should be the banks' ability to pay. He said yesterday's announcement by Lloyds of pre-tax profits of £290 million was an example that the employers could go further toward meeting the union's claim for 20 per cent.

The union is refusing to attend further talks with the English clearing banks unless the employers are prepared to improve their offer.

A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-6 Taxation - further good news

Taxation is complex and it is not possible to explain every aspect relating to Investment Trusts and their shareholders in only a few paragraphs. If, therefore, you are ever in any doubt you should take professional advice.

However, it is important to have a basic grasp since the Investment Trust sector, following recent legislation, has considerable tax advantages which further enhance its attraction to both individual and institutional shareholders.

For some years the rules for taxing Investment Trusts have recognised that a double layer of capital gains taxation, on company and on shareholder, would be unreasonable, and accordingly special low rates of tax were applied. In practice, however, individuals were not always able to obtain full benefit from the credit that was given against the tax on any gain they made. Also, there was no way in which an exempt shareholder could recover the tax suffered by the Trust.

However, Investment Trusts are now exempt from tax on capital gains so that these constraints have been removed.

The individual shareholder has no liability to Capital Gains Tax until total net realised gains (on all shares in any type of company) reach £3,000 in any tax year. Where total gains exceed £3,000 the excess will be charged at 30 per cent.

Income Tax
Income Tax in the U.K. is a levy on individuals not on companies. Investment Trust shareholders, like both Ordinary and Preference, are liable to Income Tax on any dividends they receive. The individual receives his dividend accompanied by an Income Tax credit. As with the dividend from any other company, the total amount of the dividend and the credit is included in the shareholder's income for tax purposes, but the tax credit is set against any liability to tax on that income.

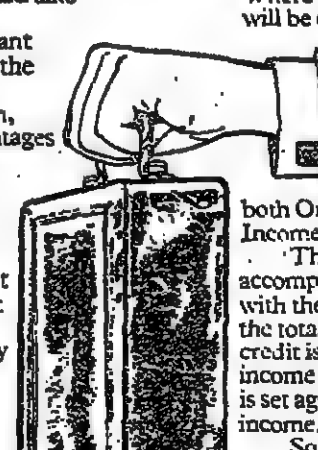
So the shareholder liable to Income Tax at the basic rate has no further tax to pay. And the U.K. shareholder who pays less than the basic rate can recover the difference from the Inland Revenue.

Debt or loan stock holders receive their interest less income tax at the basic rate with a certificate of tax deducted. If they do not pay tax, they can claim a refund.

Corporation Tax
In common with other companies an Investment Trust is subject to Corporation Tax. Dividends received by the Trust from U.K. companies, which have themselves paid Corporation Tax on their profits, are not subject to any further tax and can be passed on as dividends to the Trust's shareholders together with the Income Tax credit. The Trust's other income is liable to Corporation Tax. However, payments made by the Trust, such as dividend interest, overseas loan interest and management expenses, are deducted from this income before the liability is calculated.

Thus, an Investment Trust's liability to this tax will depend on its capital structure and the investment policy of its directors. In many cases Corporation Tax can be substantially reduced or even eliminated.

The position of non-resident shareholders is especially complex and depends on their status and the Double Taxation agreements with their country of residence.



£4m loss-maker taken over by 20th Century Fox

'Factory' buys Time-Life Films

In the midst of rumours of a strike within the Hollywood film studios, the Hollywood film company agreed in principle last week to acquire the television and film production and distribution divisions of Time-Life Films, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the New York based Time Incorporated.

Details and price of the acquisition were not disclosed, but officials said that actual assets involved are still subject to negotiations. Sources at the film company have indicated that the purchase has come at the right moment, and will bolster the "film factory's" position in the entertainment industry.

Time-Life Films lost \$9m (£4m) in 1980 after taxes. Time

Incorporated said, and another loss is expected this year. Its big current release is the Paul Newman film *Fort Apache: the Bronx*, which is doing well at the box office in the United States where it is being distributed exclusively by 20th Century Fox.

In conjunction with EEC television, Time-Life Films produced *The Ascent of Man* and America and it has distributed the BBC's *Civilisation* series.

The company has a staff of about 100 people, most based in Los Angeles, and for 1981 it has budgeted \$85m (£37m) to make films and television shows.

Two weeks ago, Mr Denis Stiff, chairman and chief executive officer of 20th Century Fox, failed in his attempt

to make his company private. In recent years, the film company had become involved in resort developments and a bottling company, but now, apparently, it is returning to the business it knows best.

A film company analyst pointed out that the acquisition of the Time-Life Film Incorporated assets "makes sense", since Fox already has a distribution organization.

"It would be more profitable for Time to take the risk of marketing them," the analyst said. "I think we will see Fox continue to expand its asset base through acquisitions."

Ivor Davies in Los Angeles

PRICE CHANGES

Uses	7p to 145p	8p to 102p
sex Props	7p to 145p	8p to 102p
TV films	10p to 200p	10p to 200p
ar. (Don)	5p to 61p	10p to 200p
rippers	8p to 128p	10p to 200p
ampson Inds	11p to 10p	10p to 200p

alls	15p to 495p	10p to 188p
advertising	15p to 495p	10p to 188p
ale Electric	16p to 73p	10p to 188p
Unit Stores	7p to 478p	10p to 188p
entleigh Group	5p to 121p	10p to 188p
arrison Crus	25p to 825p	10p to 188p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.93	Norway Kr	12.75
Canada \$	33.80	Portugal Esc	131.50
Denmark Dk	78.25	South Africa Rd	12.40
France F	2.82	Spain Ptas	2.16
Germany DM	15.66	Sweden Kr	204.59
Italy Lira	14.86	Switzerland Fr	10.33
Japan Yen	9.22	USA \$	4.33
Netherlands Gld	9.22	Yugoslavia Dnr	2.26
Sweden S	11.70		80.00
Switzerland Fr	5.06		
UK £	118.00		
US \$	112.00		
West Germany M	12.45		
Yugoslavia Dnr	1.36		
	2420.00		
	500.00		
	474.00		
	5.51		

Next Saturday: Value for money

Reprints of the complete eight-part series which makes up "A Guide to Investment Trusts" are available on request from The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, Park House, 35th Floor, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2A 3DF. Tel: 01-582 1147.

THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

On March 10 Sir Geoffrey Howe presents his Budget. We have some last minute suggestions for simple but desirable improvements in personal taxation

An open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

Dear Sir Geoffrey,
Before you get down to the serious business of practising your speech in front of the bedroom mirror, we thought you might like to consider a few last-minute suggestions.

For the most part we do our best to just try and understand the legislation and then plan accordingly but sometimes we progress from wrestling with how a particular provision works to asking the dangerous question why. We do not think that anything we are suggesting involves any major upheavals or radical changes to the system and with just over three weeks to go before Budget day it is a bit late for grandiose schemes, even if the Revenue could cope with them.

One problem that troubles a lot of people—and we have raised this in this column before—is why some people should have to be faced with such an increased tax bill if they decide to get married. Is it really government policy to encourage people to live in sin?

The age allowance for a single person who has reached the age of 65 is £1,320; for a married couple it is £2,895 and presumably you will be increasing these for the next tax year. The age allowance is not available for people above a given level of income in 1980-81 and it starts to be lost by £2 of allowance for every £3 by which income exceeds £5,900 a year.

This income limit is the same for married and single people, which seems rather bizarre if one considers that normally two people need more income than one (although perhaps not twice as much) and that the system goes some way towards accepting this by giving differential allowances. On this basis

should not the married income limit for 1980-81 have been about £9,400?

A married couple is entitled to a married allowance and the wife's earned income allowance. They also have complete separate taxation for capital transfer tax, each with his and her own set of rates and exemptions. Yet, no allowance is made for investment income surcharge in a marriage. For both married people and single people the threshold for investment income surcharge is £5,500.

Surely it would not cost too much for the logic of the personal allowances structure to be carried through to the threshold for investment income surcharge, so that in 1980-81 a married couple could have had say £8,750 before they became liable to investment income surcharge?

Exactly the same logic applies to the small gains exemption which at present is £3,000 a year. If that is the appropriate level for a single person, then surely married couples should get about £4,750.

Married allowances

None of these three changes affecting married people would appear to involve big alterations to the tax structure. Nor, we would guess, would they involve a very great loss of revenue. We are confident that you would not dream of using the Green Paper on family taxation as an excuse to postpone taking any action whatsoever in this area.

Many people, and you have often said you are one of them, believe that capital gains tax is too harsh, particularly in its effect on many long term gains. You asked the Revenue to consider the possibility of either indexation or

tapering gains, which they did with a singular lack of enthusiasm. Not surprisingly, both these schemes were dismissed on grounds of cost and/or complexity. Yet, the £3,000 a year exemption, though welcome, is hardly adequate.

Why not change the date from which capital gains tax is effective? At present, as you know, the date from which chargeable gains accrue is April 6, 1965. Gains before that date are exempt; after, they are fully taxable. If this "doomsday" were moved to say April 6, 1970, then many of the criticisms of capital gains tax would be less valid.

All gains up until that date would be exempt and thereafter they would still be taxable. The existing rules regarding the April 6, 1965 doomsday could be adapted with relatively few changes for the new date.

Of course there would be some valuation problems but just to get technical for a moment by using time apportionment more extensively, perhaps even incorporating 1965 valuations into the time apportionment calculation these could be overcome.

On another point altogether, did you know how much the tax system still tends to discriminate against self-employed people despite many helpful changes in recent years. The Finance Act 1980 contained many important and extremely welcome changes for self-employed persons. However, there are still some curious restrictions on the benefits that are available under self-employed pension life assurance cover.

Are you aware that the Revenue takes a very strict interpretation of the law and generally does not allow any extra options to be incorporated into the term assurance? Only level term—or in a few cases family

income benefit—is allowed. The option to increase life cover each year without evidence of health or to convert to another type of policy cannot be incorporated in the terms of the self-employed contract.

In contrast, the controlling director or employee pension scheme can provide life cover which increases in line with inflation or some other index and which can be continued in the form of another type of policy regardless of a person's state of health.

Self-employed abroad

Another irritation arises for self-employed people who work overseas. Many professions—including accountants and solicitors—have to practice as partners or employees of partnerships. If they work abroad it is often not permissible for them to be anything but self-employed. Unfortunately, this means that it is usually much more difficult for them to achieve the status of being not resident and not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

On the other hand an employee usually achieves this position by being employed wholly outside the United Kingdom for a full tax year and the income tax and capital gains tax advantages can be very considerable.

Did you know that an employer can provide sickness benefit under a permanent health insurance scheme and (organized in the right way) he should obtain tax relief on the premium and the benefit to the employee if there is a claim will be taxed as earned income?

On the other hand, a person who takes out a permanent health insurance contract himself will normally find that the premiums receive no kind of tax relief and that after a con-

cessionary tax holiday of a year from the date when the benefit starts, the benefit is taxable as investment income. While there are a few ingenious methods of circumventing this problem, it does seem rather unfair.

It is extraordinarily difficult for employees, particularly of unquoted companies, to buy shares in their employing company without falling foul of a particularly vicious piece of legislation. This is contained in the Finance Act, 1972, and was set up to regulate so-called share incentive schemes.

Its effect, unfortunately, is to make many such gains subject to income tax rather than capital gains tax. The new share option share incentive schemes introduced by you and your predecessor are probably excellent in themselves but are really too limited in scope for many senior managers who would like to have a "share of the action".

Of course, many of the thresholds for reliefs, rates, and exemptions need bringing up to date. Particularly obvious is capital transfer tax which Dennis Healey did more to alleviate in 1978 than you did last year. There are six bands of tax rates on estates between £50,000 and £160,000 and only three on estates between £160,000 and just over £2m. We would hope that the £2,000 a year exemption could be increased perhaps to £3,000 or even £4,000 a year.

Finally, as taxpayers we would plead for simplicity and lower taxes, even though such qualities tend to be against our professional interests.

Yours sincerely

Danby Bloch and
Raymond Godfrey

Investor's week

Waiting for another interest rate cut

Bad news is no news to investors. Take this coal fiasco, the ridiculing of the rusting Iron Lady, the roasting of Mr David Howell, the minister in the middle, the dripping of government wits as they seemingly march to victory.

You would think that glitzy stocks would reel as militants in water, gas and power get set to rush through the breach heaved by the miners, elbowing aside the Government's rickety defences against huge increases in public sector pay.

What, it may be asked, stands in the way of further explosions in government spending, borrowing and inflation, to be curbed, however imperfectly, by higher taxes or interest rates? It was a question the market did not even bother to answer this week as glits held their ground while the FT index of 30 industrial stocks took a small step back from 493.2 to 488.4.

Investors are transfixed by the assumed cut in minimum lending rate in the Budget on

March 10. Just as important, the £250m or so required to buy off the miners and keep old pits open is nothing against the public sector borrowing requirement which will be at least £3,000m for the 1980-81 financial year.

Moreover, there seems to be little scope for a crack in glitzy stocks (and hence in shares) as long as yields range up to 14 per cent. This indicates that the glitzy market is already expecting inflation to speed up again one day, and for the Government to continue to pelt it with sticks.

With fears of industrial disruption, temporarily laid to rest (and whisper it softly, the Government is getting through the winter of discontent with remarkably little unrest) institutions and private investors dabbled in shares.

They were fortified by further signs of the Government going "soft". Leaks had it that Mrs Thatcher's own personal economic advisor, Professor Alan Walters, wants her to ease

the money squeeze and lower the exchange rate to help industry compete abroad, and hardly a day passed without newspaper reports of ministerial wits pleading with Mrs Thatcher as they feared the electoral implications of a climb to 3 million unemployed.

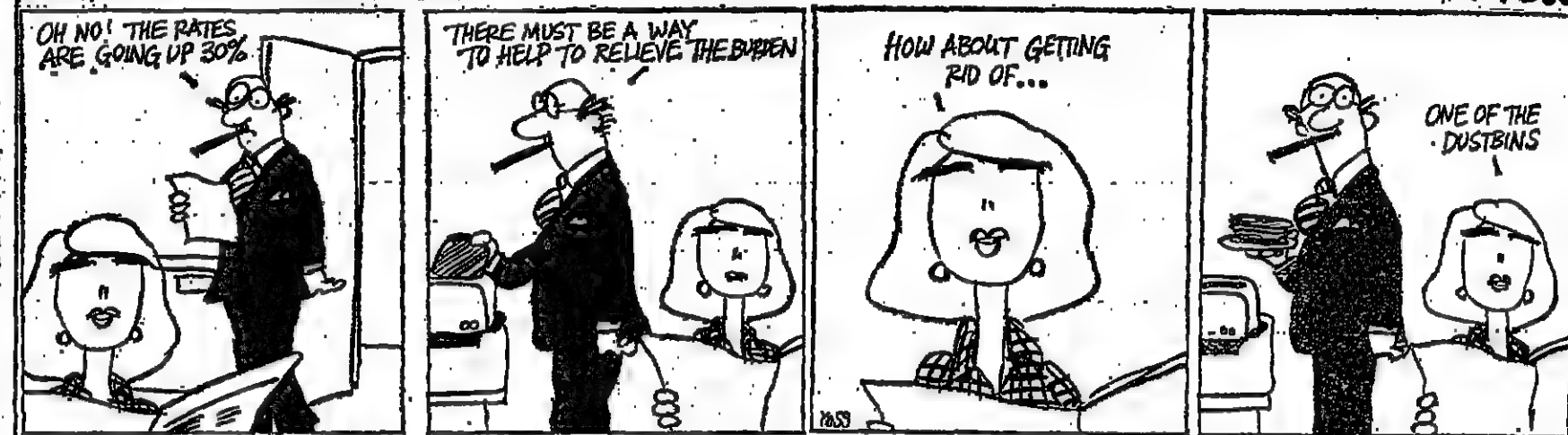
Amunition was at hand. January's record £957m balance of payments surplus on current account reflected a slump in imports brought on by industry's continued and massive destocking. Exports started to wobble as recession caught hold overseas, though they too reached a new peak, but only by value. Meanwhile Central Statistical Office indicators suggested that the trough of our own recession may be this spring.

History shows that shares climb during recession when they look forward to bumper profits and dividends in the new boom. There is a strong ascendancy as profits grow at their fastest, which is in the early stages of business recovery. On this view there is some way to go, though one pitfall was suggested by the Chamberhouse banking group this week—the possibility of renewed business weakness later this year after industry has topped up its stocks.

Meanwhile, insurance brokers bobbed up on the rise in the dollar, so good for North American earnings; and groups such as Rediff and Colman, BAT, Wedgwood and Distillers showed strength for the same reason.

Peter Wainwright

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Taxation

Black economy and the Revenue's winning way

As the end of the fiscal year approaches, how many of us are considering by what trick of financial legerdemain can we reduce our tax bills? Adding up the little fiddles here, the bigger evasion there means that as much as £3,500m in lost tax each year.

Did the taxman in a pastime as old as the Inland Revenue itself. In its first annual report in 1806 the Inland Revenue was complaining bitterly about the pecuniary losses of the original tax dodgers.

It is notorious that persons living in easy circumstances, may, even in apparent affluence, have returned their income under £60 (the ceiling for tax-free income), although their

annual expenditure has been treble that sum, and to whom there was no ground for imputing extravagance.

The early tax inspectors—or surveyors as they were once appropriately called—used very much the same surveillance techniques as their 1981 counterparts do to detect evasion.

The contrast between overt wealth and declared poverty set the surveyor's nose twitching and sent him backtracking through past records to check previous income levels.

The reluctant taxpayer in 1806 would probably feel a twinge of sympathy for his spiritual descendant in 1980 who tried to minimize his personal income by passing off

private expenses as business costs.

The 123rd report of the Inland Revenue, in much the same tone of voice as the first, reports that: "A recent in-depth examination of a pig farmer's accounts led to a discovery that the gold-plated taps in his bathroom had been charged in the business accounts as pig pens."

Future tax dodgers should, in fact, be wary of any prospective fiddle involving animals. Another investigation showed that the gift of a prize bull to the chairman of a company (the cost being charged as business expenses) is a recent instance of something which should have been declared as a taxable benefit, but was not.

The size and range of the black economy, including both outright evasion and understatement of income but not tax avoidance—which stays within the law, but usually without the spirit of it—is a matter for speculation. Those who work in it naturally aim to cover their tracks.

But there are some footprints they fail to wipe out. Comparison between gross income and expenditure tables throws up a gap between the amount of money we profess to earn—and the amount, more, we actually spend. Other clues can be found from studying cash and cheque transactions.

With these guides and its own information garnered from

specific areas and groups, such as the self-employed, the Inland Revenue believes that it is not plausible to judge that the size of the black economy is 71 per cent of national income, and the tax loss £3,000m to £3,500m.

But tax dodgers will have to work harder to avoid the Revenue's detectives, the taxmen employed in the Inland Revenue's six special offices. Since this investigative division was set up in 1976, the tax take from dodgers has increased from £22m to £91m in 1979 and an estimated £130m last year.

Margaret Stone

National Savings

Queue jumping by post

I wonder if James Littlewood, the Director of National Savings, has recently been caught in a queue at the post office?

The announcement on Wednesday that the Department of National Savings was entering the world of coupon advertising certainly suggests that someone in the hierarchy got fed up with waiting to feed money into his National Savings Bank investment account.

A new facility, "Save-by-Post" will put the National Savings Bank on the same footing as the unit trust groups, unlinked insurance offices, coin dealers and the rest who advertise their wares in the pages of the press.

True, you need to have a National Savings Bank investment account first, but other-wise there is little difference:

you cut out the coupon and send your cheque (with bank book) to the National Savings Bank in Glasgow—by Freepost.

For a savings institution which repeatedly boasts of the number of outlets—some 20,000 Crown and sub-post offices in all—and the fact that they are open on Saturday morning, the new move may seem inconsistent.

Although the NSB is anxious to provide a service for the disabled and elderly who find a trip to even the nearest post office difficult, it also wants to pull in more money with this new arrangement.

The recent increase in the maximum investment account limit to £200,000 means there is a much bigger market to tap of people who want to earn 15 per cent without queuing up for the privilege.

My neighbour has an ornamental tree planted adjacent to a wooden fence (vertical boards) which, because of the great overgrowth of the tree, is being gravely damaged by the latter leaning increasingly upon my fence and swaying markedly in even moderate winds.

I have politely drawn the attention of the owner of the tree to this state of affairs, but the matter has just been "laughed off" by a jocular permission to me to "do whatever you like about it". I am an elderly man and while I could myself cut off the offending branches, the saving up and disposal of same would tax my physical powers. I feel that a fit of mounting anger, I could quite readily saw off the branches which are eroding my property and fence, and push the whole debris over into my neighbour's land to abate the nuisance by cutting off those portions of the tree which project over your fence. Strictly you cannot lop them beyond the boundary line but as your fence is being struck and damaged by the tree a judge would undoubtedly allow you to cut it back sufficiently to prevent contact.

Unfortunately, if you have to get a contractor to do the work you cannot insist your neighbour foots the bill. (But he seems a jovial fellow, so why not send it to him any how? He may pay up). As to the branches you cut off, these remain the property of your neighbour so you must leave them on his land. It will be up to him to clear them away.

You can also (according to modern authority) bring an action against him to compensate you for the repairs to your fence. But if there is no actual damage to your property you cannot claim compensation.

Coping with the trees next door

Readers' Forum
This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

Your only right then is to cut back the offending branches at your own expense.

My work involves some overseas travel, as a result of which I have been able to claim foreign income deduction in my tax return for the past three years. I would be most grateful for your advice on a letter I have recently received from the Inland Revenue.

The problem arises from overseas earnings which, although earned in one tax year, are in fact paid in the next year. (It typically takes my employer 2-3 months to process overseas allowance claims.)

For tax year 1977-78 and 1978-79 the tax inspector treated these overlapping payments as earnings in the tax year in which they were paid. For the tax year 1979-80, however, he has altered his policy and now considers it as income in the year in which it was earned.

I questioned this change in policy, since it seemed unfair to me to tax earnings which I had not yet received. As a result I received a lengthy letter, recalculating all my over-

seas earnings since May, 1977, on this new basis and concluding that I owed over £200 in back taxes.

I would therefore appreciate your advice on the following two points:

(a) Is the inspector correct in his policy of considering overseas income in the year in which it was earned rather than the year in which it was paid?

(b) Am I obliged to pay additional tax for years back to April, 1977—tax which by the inspector's own admission is due to his own error? (D.G.S., Leighton Buzzard.)

The Inland Revenue generally assesses employed persons on the "receipts" basis—i.e. according to the remuneration paid by the employer during the year. However, the legally correct basis is the "earnings" basis. Where an employee receives bonuses, etc., which are only paid after the end of the tax year, the Inland Revenue will often apply the earnings basis and these bonuses are then assessed as remuneration of the year in which they were earned.

The application of the earnings basis frequently produces a notional underpayment. The assessment (form P70) will show remuneration earned during the year and PAYE tax deducted in that year. Because bonuses, etc., are paid only after the end of the year, the PAYE tax deducted at that time is not included in the assessment. So the assessments sent to you may not mean that you actually owe £200 to the Inland Revenue, the underpayment may be covered by subsequent tax deductions.

The Inland Revenue are generally able to raise assessments within six years of the end of the tax year concerned. Certain underpayments relating to "official error" are not pursued where the individuals have only limited means. Details of this practice are contained in the free booklet available from local tax offices listing extra statutory concessions. However, this concession is unlikely to be of any help to you, as it does not apply where the individual has income of more than £10,000.

Offshore funds

Lure of the distant islands

This week the Britannia Group launches an offshore fund in the Channel Islands. Britannia Gold Fund, available to both United Kingdom residents and non-residents, gives them a chance to invest through professional management in gold bullion, coins and gold futures as well as in gold and mining finance shares.

If the experience of Britannia's offshore funds is anything to go by, the bulk of business attracted by this new fund will come from outside the United Kingdom.

The Channel Islands has established itself as a tax haven for investors from abroad, outside the net of the Inland Revenue. But the tax advantages of investing in an offshore fund rather than a unit trust operating in the United Kingdom have largely gone by the board since the 1980 Finance Act gave valuable tax concessions to United Kingdom-based unit trusts.

What the Channel Islands have to offer as an international financial centre is professional knowledge, ease of communication and political stability. Furthermore, funds based there enjoy greater freedom of investment than United Kingdom authorized unit trusts—a fact that is reflected in the 100 different funds that are run there by over 30 management groups.

Funds investing in United Kingdom gilts—the prop of many groups set up in the Channel Islands—offer little advantage over their mainland counterparts since the last Budget changed the prohibitive rules that governed investments in gilts by unit trusts.

Next in terms of numbers come those which invest in equities for capital growth, either worldwide or in distinct geographical areas such as the United Kingdom, the United States, and to a lesser extent in

the Far East and Europe. Some of these funds are denominated in the currency of the local market which means the investor is fully exposed to the risk of currency movements as well as the fortunes of the stock market.

But what the offshore market can offer is the types of investment which United Kingdom authorized unit trusts are barred from holding. First and foremost are the deposit funds which invest in short-term United Kingdom fixed interest securities and deposits with the purpose of suppressing income in favour of capital gains—which makes them attractive to the United Kingdom resident paying higher rates of tax.

Then there are a handful of international bond funds which spread their portfolios in favoured currencies by investing in fixed interest securities, such as Eurobonds. United Kingdom gilts or United States treasury bills. Or there are a few pure currency funds which are basically like bank accounts with fund managers selecting the appropriate currency and switching around when conditions warrant it.

The more adventurous can make use of professional management to invest directly in commodities through an offshore fund, rather than through the more diluted form of commodity shares to which United Kingdom authorized trusts are limited.

This highly volatile investment should form only part of a balanced portfolio of property, equities, and fixed interest securities. Since the abolition of exchange control regulations in the autumn of 1979, worldwide investment is now readily available to the United Kingdom resident as well as those who go abroad and live or work abroad. But where the comparative scores is that he can extricate himself from the

United Kingdom tax system where despite reductions by the Tories, the top rate for investment income is still up at 75 per cent.

If you are about to start work abroad, the do's and don'ts on the tax and investment front will look like a jungle. But a book published this week, *The Expatriate's Guide to Savings and Investments*, written for those going to work abroad rather than rich tax evaders leaving our shores for a life richer still elsewhere—will help cut a clear (though expensive at £16.50) road through the undergrowth.

It gives general advice on different types of investments and taxation both in the United Kingdom and abroad, the ground you should cover before you leave and things to be done on the financial front before you return home. It also gives detailed information on all the different offshore funds, not only in the Channel Islands but also other tax havens such as the Isle of Man, Cayman Islands and Bermuda.

If your overseas appointment is accompanied by a jump in salary, do not fall into the pitfall of contractual savings unless you are sure you can carry on paying once you return home.

It is tempting to use a regular premium life assurance policy linked to an offshore fund in an attempt to build up a capital sum. But what happens if your stay abroad—and salary—is suddenly axed and you can no longer afford to pay the premiums? Early surrender of insurance policies does not make good investment sense.

Financial Times Business Publishing, Book Sales Department, Minister House, Arthur Street, London EC4R 9AX.

Sylvia Morris

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS

Banks

The case of the vanishing safe deposit boxes

A number of customers at certain branches of Lloyds Bank—Lloyds is not saying how many or where—have had a shock recently: they have been evicted from their safe deposit boxes.

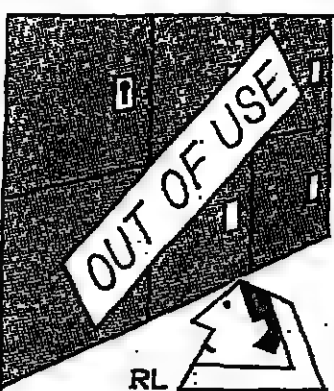
The letter of eviction from one London branch, Piccadilly, is polite and, on the face of it, helpful. It gives more than three months' notice, where only 30 days is required. It points out that, notwithstanding the decision to discontinue the "private safe deposit facility", the branch will accept "items of nominal value for safe custody provided they are accommodated in a locked deed box and frequent access to them will not be required".

The letter goes on to moot an appropriate fee... on an annual basis... and, notably, that "you might wish to advise your insurers of the impending withdrawal of the items from the safe deposit".

Indeed you might. Silver and jewellery that are kept in the back in the London area cost about £1.75 per £1,000 to insure. All risks cover—the only alternative if such valuables are not kept in some kind of safe store is upward of £2.75 per £1,000.

The other three big clearing banks deny any intention of running down their safe deposit facilities. Lloyds feels the service is uneconomic, and admits that it is discouraging new holders of safe deposit boxes even where not evicting existing ones.

But all acknowledge that safe deposit boxes are in great demand and relatively short supply. Barclays, for example, offers the facility only at 12



RL

branches, seven of them in London. The situation at NatWest and Midlands are similar. All have waiting lists, some as long as five years.

Safe deposit boxes, where you can get them, are relatively cheap considering the attendant security rituals, with various combinations of keys held by bank and customer, and the presence of at least one bank staff member required whenever the box is opened. The smallest boxes—say, 4in x 5in x 20in—cost about £10 a year, the larger up to £80 or £100.

By contrast, London firms specializing in safe deposits, such as Chancery Lane Safe Deposit & Offices, WC2, charge from £29.90 for the smallest to £264.50 for a 23in x 23in x 18in box, and have very few available. One new company, Berkeley Safe Deposit, Davies Street, W1, does have plenty of boxes available and is, moreover, open seven days a week, including the evenings.

Berkeley's minimum fee is £200.

To apply for a safe deposit box at a bank you do not have to be a customer at that branch or indeed the bank: small comfort, given the shortage of boxes generally. But even in the total absence of safe deposit boxes as such, there is still an option for the customer who would rather not be left holding the bag.

Virtually all branches of any bank will accept sealed or locked parcels or boxes of reasonable size for safe keeping over the counter. This is a longstanding practice, originally designed for wills, insurance policies, stocks, and bonds, and is usually a courtesy offered to existing customers only.

From the point of view of the dispossessed (or frustrated) safe deposit box-holder, the key point is that the bank does not want to know what is in its safe keeping—it never did, even for safe deposit boxes—and most insurers are happy if valuables are "in the bank" however the bank chooses to describe its arrangements, most often, in this case, "safe custody" as opposed to "safe deposit". Fees are so small, ranging from 50p or £1 a year for an envelope to £5 or so for a box, that they are often waived.

The author of Lloyds' eviction letter, with its curt reference to "items of nominal value", was clearly not aware of the very hard to spell out the attractions of this alternative service for the safe custody of valuables. Which is a pity.

Tony Samstag

Housing

A touch of spring in the market

House prices in January showed a marginal increase of 0.9 per cent and are £2,000 more expensive than they were a year ago with the average price now £24,752. The year-on-year increase of 8.8 per cent is the lowest recorded since The Times/Halifax house price index was introduced just over three years ago.

Although the annual rate of increase for new house prices at 16.4 per cent is almost double the second-hand rate, the increase in the last three months was 0.9 per cent. There is little evidence yet of the traditional new year price adjustments that housebuilders make; these normally show through in February figures.

The mild January seems to have tempted prospective buyers out. Halifax managers are reporting an increase in the volume of enquiries, (still to show up as applications) in branch offices.

The lower mortgage interest rate, although not making much difference to the net monthly outgoings required to service a loan, has probably contributed to the slightly more optimistic mood.

In most parts of the country house prices are lower than they were a few months ago. In the majority of cases the dip in prices is not substantial, but in Scotland house prices are now more than 5 per cent down from the October levels.

In the South-west, South-east and Greater London, where house prices are the most expensive, the setback in house prices goes back more than six months. In these regions, as well as Scotland and Yorkshire

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand houses (seasonally adjusted)

	Average price (£)	% change over preceding year	% change over preceding 3 months
1977 December	100.0	14.757	
1978 March	103.7	15.248	15.5
June	109.3	16.333	16.9
September	118.2	17.450	18.0
December	121.1	17.866	18.2
1979 March	130.5	19.259	20.4
June	138.4	20.341	21.5
September	145.5	21.480	22.1
December	151.0	22.291	22.8
1980 January	154.2	22.754	23.2
February	158.2	23.052	23.7
March	158.2	23.052	23.7
April	158.2	23.052	23.7
May	161.7	23.868	24.8
June	164.0	24.205	25.0
July	163.7	24.165	24.9
August	164.0	24.204	25.0
September	165.8	24.743	25.8
October	166.4	24.858	26.0
November	166.0	24.699	25.7
December	166.2	24.823	25.8
1981 January	167.7	24.752	25.8

Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	January	December	% change over preceding 3 months ended October
North	18,703	17,763	-0.6
York and Humberside	17,627	17,996	-0.2
North-west	20,021	20,028	-1.2
East Midlands	19,682	19,685	0.5
West Midlands	22,303	22,385	-1.0
East Anglia	23,894	24,458	-2.7
Wales	20,008	20,008	-0.7
South-west	26,368	26,246	-0.5
South-east	32,534	32,592	-0.5
Greater London	32,546	32,661	-1.4
Northern Ireland	18,764	19,097	-3.9
Scotland	21,350	21,907	-5.2

and Humberside, house prices are below their 1980 summer levels.

However, true to past form, it seems that the first signs of increased activity in the housing market are beginning to be seen

Stock markets

British Aerospace dominates day

First-time dealings in British Aerospace dominated market interest yesterday as turnover reached a staggering 70m of the 100m shares offered for sale by the Government.

The doors of the market were opened ten minutes earlier than usual to cope with the expected rush of eager investors to unload their shares to the eager institutional buyers. The shares opened at a 25p premium above the after-sale price of 150p, before retreating slightly around the 171p level where they fluctuated a penny either way for most of the day. They eventually closed at 172p, a 22p premium.

Elsewhere, activity was down to a minimum with equities drifting on profit taking ahead of the weekend, after this week's strong run. Sentiment was partially affected by the consequences of the Government's dramatic climbdown over the miners and the possible knock-on effect with other public employees currently in pay talks.

In addition, the market was dismayed by the latest round of redundancies announced by several companies, including 2,000 at Courtaulds, down 1p at 56p, and Laporte, down 6p at 85p, where 650 workers have been sacked. London Brick,

which announced redundancies earlier in the week, fell another 1p to 68p.

In the event, the FT Index closed at its low for the day 5.8 down at 488.4.

The extra cost of the settlement with the miners caused a little apprehension in gilt and this coupled with profit taking ahead of the weekend, left prices generally lower. In long, sellers had prices tumbling by £1 while in shorts losses of around £1 were recorded.

Leading industrialists whittled away the day under the shadow of British Aerospace and by the close minus signs were outweighing those stocks with upward movements. ICI, awaiting full-year figures, next week, dipped 2p to 294p, despite the belief in most circles that the dividend is now safe. Profit taking lowered Glaxo 4p to 26p, Bechams 3p to 180p and Metals Box 8p to 185p. GKN saw little support after the announcement of a linkup with BSC on the Phoenix One project, dipping 2p to 150p. But there were several bright spots with domestic support lifting Sunalp 1p to 57p while Lucas firmed 1p to 172p and Unilever climbed 2p to 465p.

Shares of Kunick Holdings

were suspended unchanged at 8p pending an announcement from the company.

Meanwhile, in electricals, Dale Electric dropped 16p to 73p after disappointing profits and reduced dividend.

Among the majors, Racal added 3p to 35p on news of the sale of some of its Decca interests to Tatung of Taiwan, while Ferranti, with its high technology interests, hardened 5p to 505p as the British Aerospace

disappointing. Lloyds rose 9p to 335p with sympathetic rises in Barclays, 7p to 389p.

However, the higher profits and 20 per cent increased dividend left dealers with nagging fears about a possible windfall tax and the problem of offering lower pay awards to their bank staffs in the present round of pay talks.

Full year figures from Goode Durrant & Murray were well received by the market on Thursday, and rose 1p to 29p and did not fall.

Wegwood continued to benefit from recent figures, climbing another 2p to 71p. Favourable comment was good for rises in Cawoods, 2p to 200p, John Finlan, 4p to 115p, Higgs & Hill, 7p to 127p, and Aberdeen Investment, 7p to 200p.

Sagunana leapt 38p to 348p in plantations, as profit taking clipped 15p from London Sunatara at 373p. In oils, profit taking left BP down 4p at 392p, Tricentral 10p lower at 306p and Lasso down a similar figure at 637p.

Equity turnover on February 19 was £131.378m (16.175 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were British Aerospace, GEC, Shell, Associated Dairies, Beecham, Turner & Newall, BAT, Rowan, GMM, Marks & Spencer, Cons Gold, Distillers, Tricentral, ICI and Racal.

Traded Options: Although unable to deal in the new British Aerospace issue, business among its existing technology issues drew 614 contracts for Racal out of a total of 1,361 contracts.

Traditional options, on the other hand, were kept busy by calls for British Aerospace where the rate for the call was 12 1/2p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	price	date	total
Abbey Panels (F)	10.15(6.9)	0.87(0.5)	16.58(18.57)	0.75(—)	—	—
Adams & Gibbons (F)	25.7(25.8)	0.18(0.78)	—	2.5(—)	30/4	3.75(5.75)
Win Dawson (F)	12.07(16.7)	0.11(0.58)	2.97(9.97)	0.75(2.3)	—	—
Lloyds Bank (F)	283.9(276.5)	108.6(99.8)	1.45(—)	0.75(2.3)	—	—
Scottish Wid (F)	24.7(2.5)	2.23(2.26)	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table shown as pence per share. Earnings in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown as pretax and earnings are net. * = Net revenue after tax, † = Net profit.

Dale Electric halves interim

By Catherine Gunn

Shares of Dale Electric International, an electric generator maker, fell 16p to 73p yesterday after it halved the interim dividend to 1p a share gross.

Profits at the half-year stage were £3,000 down at £205,000 on barely changed sales of £11.2m at October 26, 1980. Losses from three small businesses were blamed, one of which has since been sold.

Mr Leonard Dale, the chairman and managing director, said the group is trading buoy-

antly though export conditions are rough and there has been some price-cutting. Apart from electric generators, the group makes micro-electronic equipment and since October, diesel and gas turbine generating sets.

It opened a new factory in Leeds to make the new sets after closing its Hull factory.

Good figures from the aerospace ground power business, which were negated by the losses from the three small companies, G. B. Cambridge, the most significant loss-maker, has

been sold. Of the others, one has been reorganised and is now breaking even and the third is said to be improving.

Orders still look healthy, Mr Dale said, with increased business progressing through the system, but not yet paid for.

Mr Dale said that the dividend cut reflects an equal balance between the reduction in profits and the board's optimism for future trading periods. However, that this year would see a better trading climate have not materialized yet.

Espley-Tyas placing on Monday

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Ronald Shuck, former chairman of Slater-Walker, a property company, is placing the shares of Espley-Tyas on Monday.

The shares are being placed on Monday at 75p. Carr will start a week later on March 2. The issue was first announced three weeks ago.

The new Espley-Tyas group has been put together out of Mr Shuck's own property business, the former Espley-Tyas, and a group of other quoted spinning group Clover Croft & State, Queen Street Warehouse, and the previously private construction company Espley-Tyas itself.

As Consul's present projects are completed, their profits will be injected into Espley-Tyas in the form of shares, bringing Mr Shuck's stake up from 20.1 per cent to 50.3 per cent of Espley-Tyas.

Mr Shuck has said he plans to expand Espley-Tyas in Britain by buying relatively cheap assets, and then would like to turn the group's attention to the United States.

Denbyware calls bid by Crown 'derisory'

Directors of pottery group

Denbyware have rejected as "derisory" the £3m-plus takeover bid from Crown House, the engineering group which also has glass manufacturing interests.

In a letter to shareholders Mr George Robinson, chairman, said the offer was "derisory" and that the group had no intention of being taken over.

The offer of 80p a share was "derisory" and shareholders were advised to take no action. Crown House, which holds a near 30 per cent stake in Denbyware, it launched its bid for full control earlier in the week.

A takeover battle was signalled immediately after the Crown House bid, when it was disclosed that Denbyware's advisers had stepped into the market to boost its existing stake in the group from just under 12 per cent to more than 15 per cent.

Guinness Peat buys Sharpstow Chemical

Guinness Peat Group has completed the acquisition of Sharpstow Chemical, a private

Bristol Evening Post chief attacks bid

In a wide-ranging attack on the group attempting to take control of his company, Mr Andrew Breach, chairman of Bristol Evening Post, declared the offer by Associated Newspapers to be "opportunistic and totally inadequate".

In a letter to shareholders he says the BEP board considers that the concept of total ownership by Associated cannot be recommended on financial grounds. Moreover, it is "of no technical merit, carries no advantages for BEP group employees, in which view the board has received wide support from the workforce, and is contrary to the spirit of United Kingdom legislation on newspaper monopolies".

Briefly

F. Pratt Engineering Corporation:

Norwich Union Insurance group has disposed of 110,000 shares and now holds 299,000 shares (3.49 per cent).

Scottish Industrial Investors: Net revenue for year to December 31, £24.7m (£25.0m). E.P.S.: 2.32p (2.25p). Dividend total 3.25p gross (3.07p net). Dividend to be paid one-for-two, N.A.V. 104.5p, an increase of 32.1 per cent.

Howard Machinery: Co confirms that it has been notified that Diamond & Industries Inc of Wilmington, Delaware, has acquired a further 500,000 shares and now also holds a proxy for a period of 6 months to vote in respect of a further 2m shares. Marlborough Securities has notified the board that it has agreed to dispose of 1.5m ordinary shares (9.4 per cent).

Moover & Main: Turnover for half year to September 30, £17.36m (£21.16m). Pre-tax profit £1.11m (£1.69m). Attributable profit £0.75m (£0.98m). Pre-tax profit £0.75m (£0.98m). EPS 16.58p (18.57p). Final 0.75p.

ARM Holdings: The Oak Creek Joint Ventures have agreed in principle with the Queensland Government on rail and port aspects of the project, and both parties are proceeding with heads of agreement. Joint venture now has tentative plans to produce 0.5m tonnes a year of steaming coal to be shipped in conjunction with the coaling coal.

Adams & Gibson: Final 2.5p net (2.07p net). Dividend for year to November 30, Turnover £25.7m (£25.87m). Pre-tax profit £187,000 (£182,000) after interest and tax. Evered & Co (Holdings): Aero Industrial Group has acquired a further 190,000 shares.

Racal sells TV factory to Taiwan company

By Bill Johnston

Racal Electronics has sold the Decca television factory in Bridgnorth, Shropshire, to a Taiwan company for about £1.1m.

The purchase, scheduled for June 1, will mean production being run down at the Shropshire factory from its present level of 1,000 to 1,500 televisions a week.

Racal acquired Decca for £3m last year, after intense competition from the General Electric Company (GEC).

The production force at the factory was reduced to 850 from 1,200. With Tatung's consent a production schedule for the manufacture of the Decca televisions was agreed.

A joint statement said: "Price of the fixed assets will be £1.1m subject to the asset position on June 1. The book value of these assets is currently £1.3m."

The Shropshire factory has been producing the full range of television sets from 12 inch to 26 inch. After the takeover on June 1, Tatung will be introducing its models to Shropshire along with its own production technology.

The stocks of television sets that remain after the June takeover will be sold in cooperation with Tatung. The Taiwanese company will form a British subsidiary called Tatung (UK) which will operate the Shropshire factory after June and provide sale and service for products manufactured before that date for a period of seven years.

According to the joint statement the purchase includes the premises, plant and machinery at Bridgnorth, and at the laboratory at Bradford, Yorkshire.

By the handover date, Racal expects that keeping the factory going at Bridgnorth will have cost £1.7m. Both parties stressed that they are anxious to preserve the jobs of the present employees.

They said: "Tatung will use its best endeavours to secure continuing employment for as many of the present employees as possible for future business, and has guaranteed employment for at least 500 of the present employees for a minimum period of 12 months and intends to increase employment thereafter."

Marsh offer to former Bowring shareholders

By Our Financial Staff

Marsh & McLennan, the United States insurance broker, which acquired British rival C. T. Bowring in a £250m cash and share deal last year, is offering to buy out United Kingdom investors who hold 15 of its shares or fewer.

The offer represents part of M & M's plan to smooth out dealing and marketability problems in its heavyweights' stock, and to help former Bowring shareholders who received M & M shares in part or full payment for their holdings.

The American group has also made arrangements for British holders to elect to receive dividends in sterling rather than dollars to avoid banking costs of currency conversion.

It is offering to buy in the shares without cost at the average market price ruling in the three days to March 31.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT CONSTANT FACTOR COST (1975=100)

Expenditure	Income	Output	Average
1978 Q4	109.3	109.3	109.2
1979 Q4	107.2	108.8	108.7
1980 Q4	111.9	111.0	111.5
1981 Q1	110.1	108.6	109.4
1980 Q1	109.5	111.1	110.1
1980 Q2	109.2	109.2	109.2
1980 Q3	106.4	107.9	106.5
* Preliminary estimate.			

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Credits	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11 1/2% over £50,000 12 1/2% over £50,000 12 1/2%.

Round-up Building society links

R. J. Temple, the firm of accountants, tax consultants and investment advisers launched a building society insurance link plan with a difference this week.

The scheme, launched in conjunction with Sentinel Insurance, a small conventional office, will invest at least three-quarters of your premiums in building societies—it is not tied to one society—with the remainder in other "safe" investments—such as local authority loans—if they offer a better yield at any time.

The actual return you will see from this investment depends on your tax rate and your age, but at present build-

ing society rates—and assuming life assurance premiums of 15 per cent—to a basic rate taxpayer the return over the four-year term is 15.42 per cent (equivalent to 20.03 per cent gross) or 13.2 per cent for the 75 per cent taxpayer (15.79 per cent gross).

● Hill Samuel Unit Trust managers are launching a Gift and Fixed Interest Growth Trust this weekend. Designed primarily for the higher rate taxpayer, the fund will aim for capital growth through active management of a fixed interest portfolio, and with the rates of falling interest the estimated gross starting yield on the fund, where minimum investment is £500, is 4 per cent.

The charges on the fund include a 4 per cent initial service levy and an annual fee of 0.75 per cent, although the managers reserve the right to increase these to 5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

● Standard Life has joined the growing number of life assurance companies adding a loan facility to their unit linked executive pension plans. It can also be set against the withdrawal contract—still a fairly novel feature.

The facility is for controlling directors or those who are standard life policyholders, the minimum loan is £10,000.

Loan facilities on these schemes offer company directors the chance to put as much as possible into an executive pension plan with all the tax advantages without having to worry about retiring in his money until retirement.

Canon expects peak sales and profits for 1981

Canon Inc, the Japanese camera maker, expects its after-tax profit for 1981 to rise to a record £122m, slightly up from last year's £117.5m.

Sales are expected to go up by about 16 per cent to a record 280,000 yen. Sales of cameras and copying machines are expected to increase this year as they did last year, but the yen's appreciation against the dollar will worsen export profitability.

Canon plans to declare a dividend of 12 yen per share this year, against 11 yen last year.

Squibb sales advance

The Squibb Corporation's sales for the fourth quarter in 1980 were \$461.2m (£202m), an increase of 12 per cent from comparable sales in 1979. Fourth-quarter income from continuing businesses of \$42.61m was up 10 per cent.

Net income from continuing and discontinued businesses was \$42.3m in the fourth quarter of 1980, up 5 per cent.

International

Earlier today Canon reported a 30 per cent rise in after-tax profit for 1980 of £173,000, compared with £133,000 in 1979, on sales up 28 per cent to 240,750m yen.

Feb 20	Feb 19		Feb 18	Feb 17
100%	100%	World American	100%	100%
100%	100%	World News	100%	100%
100%	100%	HCA Corp	100%	100%
100%	100%	Public Serv	100%	100%
100%	100%	Bevco Inc	100%	100%
100%	100%	Exxon-Mob. Metal	100%	100%
100%	100%	Southwell Ins	100%	100%
100%	100%	North Dutch	100%	100%
100%	100%	Sanchez	100%	100%
100%	100%	United Paper	100%	100%
100%	100%	Santa Fe Ind	100%	100%
100%	100%	BCA	100%	100%
100%	100%	Shimadzu	100%	100%
100%	100%	Santa Paper	100%	100%
100%	100%	Seacore	100%	100%
100%	100%	Rockwell Buck	100%	100%
100%	100%	Shut Off	100%	100%
100%	100%	Shell Trans	100%	100%
100%	100%	Signal Co	100%	100%
100%	100%	Minner	100%	100%
100%	100%	Sto. Cal Edison	100%	100%
100%	100%	Southern Pacific	100%	100%

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Office Title	Rate	Office Title	Rate
Vanburgh Life Assurance Ltd.			
Adm. Sec. London, W. Surrey, L.	£100	Asst. Sec.	£225
£24.0	Man. Fund	£25.0	201.0
£24.0	Do Property	£21.0	237.0
£24.0	Do Ins. Int.	£22.0	198.0
£24.0	Do Security	£22.0	198.0
£24.0	Do Ins.	£22.0	198.0
£24.0	Do Ins.	£22.0	198.0
Vanburgh Perpetual Limited			
Man. Fund	£25.0	201.0	
£24.0	Property	£21.0	237.0
£24.0	Ins. Int.	£22.0	198.0
£24.0	Ins.	£22.0	198.0
£24.0	Ins.	£22.0	198.0
Wellfry Insurance, Ltd.			
Man. Fund	£25.0	201.0	
£24.0	Property	£21.0	237.0
£24.0	Ins. Int.	£22.0	198.0
£24.0	Ins.	£22.0	198.0
£24.0	Ins.	£22.0	198.0

[illegible]

1	University Int'l	25.0	21.8	2.2
2	De Avenir	24.0	21.5	2.5
3	EB Per E	23.8	21.5	2.3
4	De Avenir	23.0	20.5	2.5
5	EB Int'l	22.0	20.0	2.0
6	De Avenir	21.0	19.5	1.5
7	EB Int'l	20.0	18.5	1.5
8	EB Int'l	19.0	17.5	1.5
9	EB Int'l	18.0	16.5	1.5
10	EB Int'l	17.0	15.5	1.5
11	EB Int'l	16.0	14.5	1.5
12	EB Int'l	15.0	13.5	1.5
13	EB Int'l	14.0	12.5	1.5
14	EB Int'l	13.0	11.5	1.5
15	EB Int'l	12.0	10.5	1.5
16	EB Int'l	11.0	9.5	1.5
17	EB Int'l	10.0	8.5	1.5
18	EB Int'l	9.0	7.5	1.5
19	EB Int'l	8.0	6.5	1.5
20	EB Int'l	7.0	5.5	1.5
21	EB Int'l	6.0	4.5	1.5
22	EB Int'l	5.0	3.5	1.5
23	EB Int'l	4.0	2.5	1.5
24	EB Int'l	3.0	1.5	1.5
25	EB Int'l	2.0	0.5	1.5
26	EB Int'l	1.0	0.0	1.0
27	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
28	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
29	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
30	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
31	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
32	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
33	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
34	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
35	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
36	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
37	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
38	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
39	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
40	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
41	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
42	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
43	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
44	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
45	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
46	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
47	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
48	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
49	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
50	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
51	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
52	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
53	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
54	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
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66	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
67	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
68	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
69	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
70	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
71	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
72	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
73	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
74	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
75	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
76	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
77	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
78	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
79	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	0.0
80	EB Int'l	0.0	0.0	

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Prappert (40)	211	17.9
Gold (1)	100.2	2.1
Gold (2)	100.2	2.1
Gold (3)	100.2	2.1
Gold (4)	100.2	2.1
Gold (5)	100.2	2.1
Gold (6)	100.2	2.1
Gold (7)	100.2	2.1
Gold (8)	100.2	2.1
Gold (9)	100.2	2.1
Gold (10)	100.2	2.1
Gold (11)	100.2	2.1
Gold (12)	100.2	2.1
Gold (13)	100.2	2.1
Gold (14)	100.2	2.1
Gold (15)	100.2	2.1
Gold (16)	100.2	2.1
Gold (17)	100.2	2.1
Gold (18)	100.2	2.1
Gold (19)	100.2	2.1
Gold (20)	100.2	2.1
Gold (21)	100.2	2.1
Gold (22)	100.2	2.1
Gold (23)	100.2	2.1
Gold (24)	100.2	2.1
Gold (25)	100.2	2.1
Gold (26)	100.2	2.1
Gold (27)	100.2	2.1
Gold (28)	100.2	2.1
Gold (29)	100.2	2.1
Gold (30)	100.2	2.1
Gold (31)	100.2	2.1
Gold (32)	100.2	2.1
Gold (33)	100.2	2.1
Gold (34)	100.2	2.1
Gold (35)	100.2	2.1
Gold (36)	100.2	2.1
Gold (37)	100.2	2.1
Gold (38)	100.2	2.1
Gold (39)	100.2	2.1
Gold (40)	100.2	2.1
Gold (41)	100.2	2.1
Gold (42)	100.2	2.1
Gold (43)	100.2	2.1
Gold (44)	100.2	2.1
Gold (45)	100.2	2.1
Gold (46)	100.2	2.1
Gold (47)	100.2	2.1
Gold (48)	100.2	2.1
Gold (49)	100.2	2.1
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Gold (69)	100.2	2.1
Gold (70)	100.2	2.1
Gold (71)	100.2	2.1
Gold (72)	100.2	2.1
Gold (73)	100.2	2.1
Gold (74)	100.2	2.1
Gold (75)	100.2	2.1
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Gold (81)	100.2	2.1
Gold (82)	100.2	2.1
Gold (83)	100.2	2.1
Gold (84)	100.2	2.1
Gold (85)	100.2	2.1
Gold (86)	100.2	2.1
Gold (87)	100.2	2.1
Gold (88)	100.2	2.1
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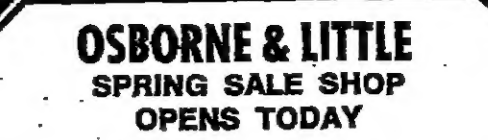
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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension on the transformation efficiency of *Agrobacterium* strains. The concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension was 10⁶ cells/ml (A), 10⁷ cells/ml (B), 10⁸ cells/ml (C), and 10⁹ cells/ml (D). The transformation efficiency was determined by the number of transformants per 10⁶ cells of the *Agrobacterium* suspension. The data are the mean \pm SD of three independent experiments.

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regulations: this would mean the 1950 Act.



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14	21, 28 Mar.	\$135
7	28 Mar.	\$105
7	5, 12 Mar.	\$135
14	12, 19 Mar.	\$175
7	6, 13 Mar.	\$119
7	6, 13 Mar.	\$119
14	6, 13 Mar.	\$135

7 4. 11 Mar. \$125

7	4, 11 Mar.	£99
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